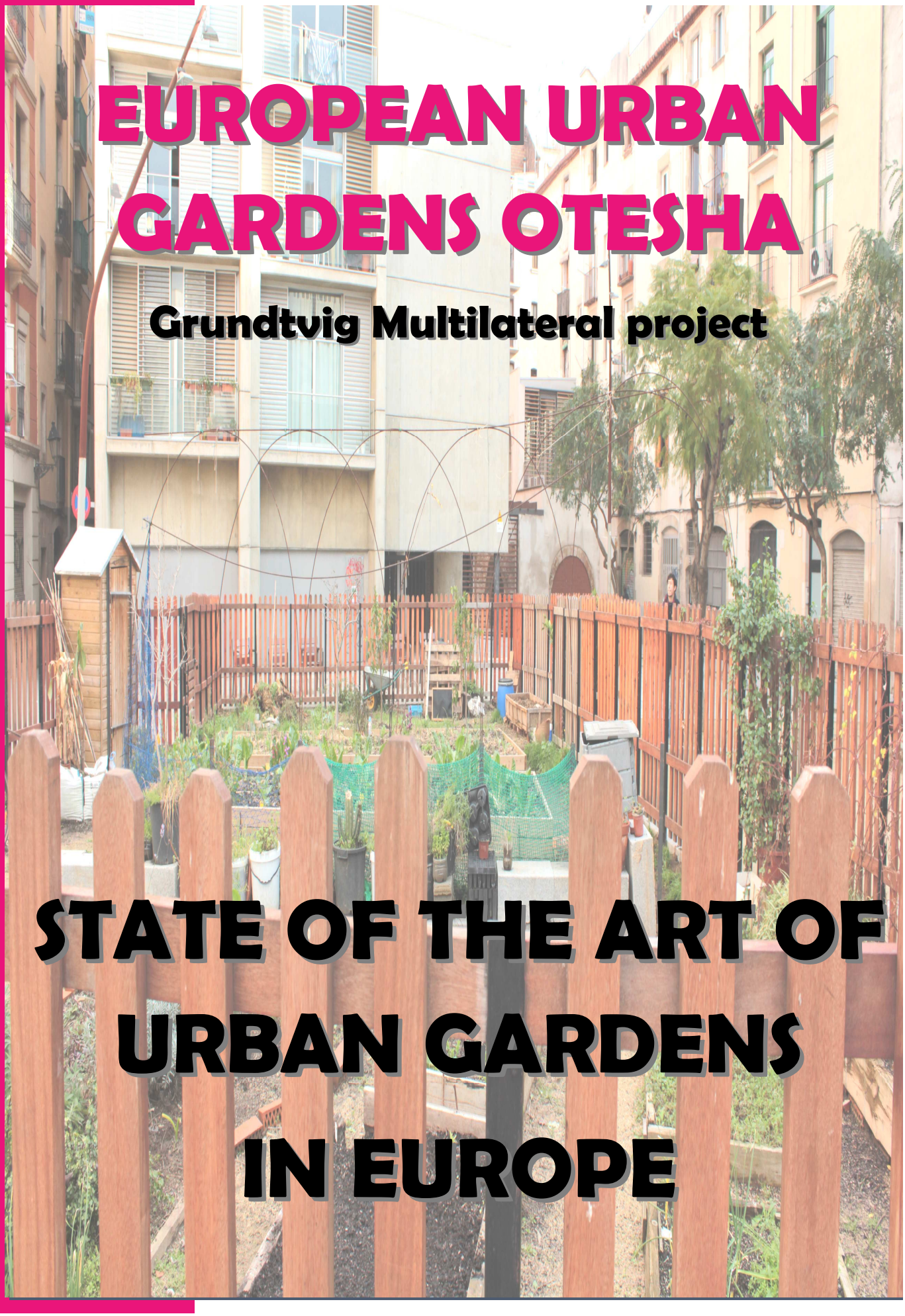
EUROPEAN URBAN GARDENS OTESHA

Grundtvig Multilateral project



STATE OF THE ART OF URBAN GARDENS IN EUROPE

EUGO
European Urban Garden Otesha

Lifelong Learning

"With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union"

pistes solidaires

nexes

CEMEA MEZZOGIORNO ONLUS

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Verein zur Förderung
innovativer Wohn- und Lebensformen

Bienvenue sur le Réseau
des Jardins Solidaires Méditerranéens

State of the art of urban gardens in Europe

December 2012

In the frame of Grundtvig multilateral Project

EUGO
European Urban Garden Otesha

Lifelong Learning

The Project...

A shared garden can create social ties through the meeting of people of all ages, and of all social and cultural origins. It is a place to exchange and converse, a place where knowledge is transferred, and where connections are made. In the garden social codes are neutralised: there is a garden and there are gardeners.

Despite an interdependent world, social links become more and more disconnected. This particularly affects big urban areas that have difficulties such as high unemployment rates, marginalisation, poverty, and criminality. At the same time, these areas are the places for social innovation and economic growth. In these big cities, even though interpersonal contacts are regular, there is no actual exchange between these city dwellers with various cultural origins, ages and social categories.

In these cities more than anywhere else, cultural integration of people from various origins is a real difficulty, leading some European politicians to call "multiculturalism" a failure.

This observation, at a European level, is not new but is in need of new types of answers.

Innovation seems to be the first step. The 2020 strategy highlights innovation as a factor for social progress. To innovate in order to integrate, associate, educate, make autonomous, include, transform and succeed. These are answers that must be complementary.

Community gardens are a part of this. Coming from the movement of working-class gardens forty years ago, some of them today are places of education for meetings, exchanges, for the integration of mutual respect, while keeping the historical aspect of food self-sufficiency.

It's in this context that six European organisations, settled in urban areas, are united to work on the innovative tool of urban community gardens. The community garden will be used as a social link; an educative tool to sustainable development; a facilitator to intergenerational and intercultural dialogue; a social inclusion generator; and a support to professional training.

European Urban Garden Otesha (EU'GO) aims at creating a pedagogical approach with an adaptable method. It will work on the concept of "Otesha Gardens", using green spaces and innovative spaces to encourage combination of skills and knowledge, sharing of reflection, learning and collective creation for the purpose of social intergenerational and intercultural links.

The state of the art of urban gardens in Europe is the starting point of the project. It aims at discovering and understanding different realities, contexts and partners to be able to set up learning methods and social experimentations in this area.

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The partners

Pistes Solidaires, Marseille, FRANCE

pistes solidaires

Created in 2002, Pistes-Solidaires is a non-profit association set up in accordance with the French Association Law (1901). The objectives of the association include the development of exchanges in the social, cultural, educational and economic spheres which promote personal, social and environmental respect.

As an association that practises and promotes popular education, Pistes-Solidaires supports the knowledge, competences and behaviours, which promote justice and equality in an intercultural society and an interdependent world. It intends to increase public awareness of global problems and to demonstrate the potential for change. Furthermore, one of its challenges is to make it possible for people to understand the connections between their lives and those of the entire world.

These objectives represent the basis for all the actions that the association develops. The idea is to offer new perspectives to local economy, to be active in current and future demand for responsible consumption and to acknowledge local development as a function of global variables.

Pistes-Solidaires is working in the field of mobility in order to allow people, at any age, to meet, learn and share ideas, and to come back changed. Pistes-Solidaires is a hosting, sending and coordinating organisation of European volunteers through the Youth in Action Programme. It coordinates the sending and hosting of around fifteen intercultural exchanges a year. It also develops its collaboration with social workers to allow them to incorporate a European and intercultural dimension to their daily activities. In 2008, the organisation launched a large thinking/acting process about responsible consumption with the Otesha project. The process allowed the organisation to initiate strong local and international partnerships and to go further on this subject today, through urban community gardens. The organisation has, since 2007, developed many projects in the frame of the LLP programme, such as Learning Partnerships on immigration and interculturality, and last year worked on intergenerational dialogue in community gardens. The organisation has supervised Leonardo trainees and coordinated the sending and hosting of senior volunteers on the subject of youth, immigration and responsible consumption since 2010.

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Réseau des jardins solidaires méditérranéens, Marseille, FRANCE

The Réseau des Jardins Solidaires Méditerranéens, hereafter "RJSM", is a network which gathers a variety of associative gardens and other related organisations in the South East of France. The network operates in the area called Region Provence, Alpes, Côte d'Azur, and in the north of Région Languedoc-Roussillon. RJSM was initiated after the national conference on community gardens of Nantes, in 1999, by an association named "Les Jardins d'Amelie". The aim was to offer to the community gardens of the Mediterranean area a place to combine and leverage their experience, their practices and knowledge. When that association disappeared in 2006 (for financial reasons not related to the network) the different gardens and organisations belonging to the network decided to create a dedicated non for profit association, the actual RJSM.

The objectives of the RJSM are To lead the network of Mediterranean community gardens; To develop exchanges and the continuous training of its stakeholders; To promote the existence of community gardens; To help elaborate on the projects of new gardens; To support the existing gardens. The RJSM organisation defines its values in accordance with the "Charte du jardin dans tous ses états" (Charter of the Garden in all its glory) which is a charter adopted by the wokgroup "Jardin dans Tous Ses Etats", a national group of regional organizations/networks of community gardens:

The Charter "Jardin dans Tous ses Etats»:

Strengthening social links, where living conditions have contributed to people being driven apart, with no social life, mutual aid or dialogue; Allowing citizens, without cultural, ethnic or social discrimination, to take over and enrich their daily environment; Establishing generous links, as well as being respectful towards our Earth and nature, and acting in a responsible way; Enjoying the pleasures of creating, tasting, sharing, as new forms of freedom and autonomy.

For all these reasons, it seems important to us to declare the right for all, at all ages, to garden. Each garden is unique but all the gardens of our network recognise themselves in it because they share the same values, based on the respect of human beings, environment and solidarity. Almost 100 gardens are flourishing on the Mediterranean coast of Southern France, 35 were actual active members of the organisation in 2011.

To this end, the RJSM organizes various activities: non formal training: "exchanges-meetings", garden tours, training trips. The participants exchange knowledge and experiences, discover new gardens together. These activities are conducted in a friendly atmosphere and contribute to the development of each of its gardens. Formal training sessions: mainly 2 or 3 day sessions, accessible as part of the continuous professional training and also for volunteers, they aim to allow trainees to complete their projects eg. "Creating and managing a shared Garden," "Discovery of Therapeutic Horticulture". Support to projects: the network can assist stakeholders (e.g. inhabitant communities, social centres, city councils, and other organisations) in creating their garden project.

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KC English, Cawsand, UK

KC English is a communications and training organisation. We provide language classes in English for migrant workers and foreign visitors to the UK, also French, Spanish and Polish classes for English speakers. We arrange home-stay English language courses for foreign students, based around full immersion into the local community. Our aim is to generate new incomes for local people, while enriching our area with links to other parts of Europe.

We provide support for work on intercultural communication and understanding. This includes coordination of trainers for active learning sessions, access to teaching resources, project management and support. We have a wide network across Europe for international cooperation and shared activity.

Our target group is language learners, individuals and organisations who want to develop intercultural and international understanding, and those interested in active training. We work hard to support community organisations, especially voluntary groups in our area, because we see this as an important driver of social cohesion, community self-support and confidence building. Approximately 50% of our work is connected to support for disadvantaged residents in our local community area. These include migrant workers and their families, and those with limited educational achievement.

KC English has strong experience in working with local volunteers. We regularly bring local volunteers in to our project activities such as woodland work,that is clearing paths, planting trees, map making and publicity.

KC English is new to Grundtvig GMP projects. Our experience of Grundtvig so far has come from Learning Partnership and Senior Volunteering activities. However, we have links with other local companies that have experience of large scale LLP and we will collaborate informally with them for support in the initial stages of the project. One company was involved in the "Green Fingers" Grundtvig project. This project arranged exchange visits for gardeners working with young people, co-ordinated by them. They also have links with a national gardening project called Groundworks. Groundworks provide staff, volunteers and support for a city-based project which offers gardening opportunities for disadvantaged people in Plymouth.

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Nexes interculturals de joves per Europa, Barcelona, SPAIN

Nexes Interculturals is a youth association working for social transformation and active participation through intercultural and local experiences of young people. For 10 years, Nexes has been using European programmes to enhance active participation of young people, to help them to set up projects, train them, and to give them resources and opportunities to grow up professionally and personally. To achieve the goals and mission of Nexes, we promote:

- Intercultural experiences and empowerment of young people: European Voluntary Service; vocational training projects of the Leonardo da Vinci Programme (hosting and sending); youth exchanges; Grundtvig projects; leisure and cultural local activities; and many other activities for young people and for adults.
- Training and counselling: information sessions and guidance; workshops; training courses; counselling for youth mobility.
- Cooperation: youth cooperation projects; projects to increase awareness; participation in international networks.

To carry out this Project we collaborate with several institutions, NGOs, and we participate in several local and international networks.

Nexes has been working with the topic of sustainable development for 3 years as a way to change society and educate people through youth projects. Nexes has participated in Otesha Youth Exchange organised by Pistes Solidaires in 2009 on this topic and then created a local group to keep on working at local and international level. In 2009, a local project called "Junts fem mes" proposed to train some youth leaders on these topics to be able to do workshops in schools and institutions of the city. One of the training stages was based on urban gardens work for social transformation. In 2010, Nexes was also partner to Pistes Solidaires in the project Global Impact where young people with fewer opportunities worked at local and international level to raise awareness on education for sustainable development. The group created a Theatre Play, organised local events and dissemination events.

On the other hand, Nexes has always been a link ("nexes" means "links" in Catalan) between people and organisations and when it decided to be part of this project, the idea was also to contact many gardens and organisations working on that topic.

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Inwole, Potsdam, GERMANY

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The Inwole e.V. organisation is in charge of a Project House in Potsdam. Here we try to reconnect different aspects of life (settlement, work, social, cultural, politics), which are often separated in modern cities. 24 people from 4 countries are currently living in the Project House. Around 50 people, with various social and cultural origins, are committed to the different projects of the house. The strengths of our work are the intercultural projects, ecology, popular education (emancipation and self-suggested) and social economy projects. Therefore, we organise a "Workshop House" that serves as a house for self-employment and offers open workshops. The organisation is acknowledged as professional assistance to youth ("anerkannter freier Träger der Jugendhilfe") and as "Generations House" (Mehrgenerationen Haus)

For 6 years the association has been running a unique center in its own space in Potsdam – Babelsberg. Currently the center incorporates a living project for people, a seminar and guests floor, a workshop part for different crafts, regular offer of public kitchen, as well as 4 different project fields.

The project conceives itself as a political project, which hasbeen engaged for years in working in anti-racist, emancipatory and ecological networks. The association is working on the basis of principles of self-organisation, direct democracy and mainly on voluntary work basis.

The Project House Potsdam is an intercultural project, which gives opportunities for people from different countries and backgrounds to work and live within the project.

Another important part of the Project house Potsdam is the "Werkstatthaus" it is a kind a workshop of self-organisation. Everybody can use the workshop and built for example his own furniture ore make by themselves a cup in the pottery workshop.

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CEMEA del Mezzogiorno, Roma, ITALY

CEMEA del Mezzogiorno is an ONLUS (not for profit organization of social utility) situated in Rome and its actions deal with disadvantaged young people, the promotion of non formal education through training, the development of local communities and active citizenship. In its initiatives CEMEA del Mezzogiorno involves children, teenagers, parents and teachers in play and recreational activities, which are the main tools of its work. Our main activities in Italy can be summed up as follows:stages for educators, teachers, animators; educative centres for children, teenagers and youngsters; artistic and cultural activities within social programs; holiday and spare time centres; exchanges; workshops outside compulsory education; ecological and environmental education; exchanges with universities; national and international meetings and seminars; publishing activities (bulletins, books, reviews etc.) CEMEA's (Training Centers for Active Education Methods) educational activity, combined with the international learning opportunities offered by the European Union, support participation, intercultural approaches, local projects and active citizenship as basic elements for collective and individual actions. We develop projects under the European programs Youth in Action ; Leonardo da Vinci; Grundtvig; Europe for Citizens; European Social Fund for Immigration and European Social Fund.

CEMEA del Mezzogiorno follows the meaning of Education for sustainable development (ESD) as stated by the UNESCO. Following this principle CEMEA del Mezzogiorno is one of the partners in the OTESHA process, initiated by Pistes Solidaires in 2010. From this year several international projects have been carried out:

THE OTESHA PROJECT: a Multi-measure project under the Youth in Action Program dealing with sustainable consumption (the International Youth exchange OTESHA TASTE), transport and sustainable urbanization (OTESHA RIDE TOUR 1 & 2, International Youth Exchanges) and active citizenship (OTESHA INFLUENCE, a transnational youth initiative)

TRASH PROJECT #1: an International Youth exchange about waste and creative recycling, held in Lisbon in 2011, which will be followed by a TRASHproject #2 about the same topic and it will be organized in Italy, by CEMEA del Mezzogiorno.

O.P.E.N. (OTESHA PAN EUROPEAN NETWORK): a LONG TERM TRAINING COURSE about education for sustainable development and multiplying educational tools in ESD that will establish and reinforce a European network of 7 associations involved in the field.

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Urban gardens in Europe

The phenomenon of urban community gardens is something that has concerned almost all European countries for several decades. At the beginning, their function was closely and substantially related to food production but quickly they became "tools" to deliver social cohesion and revitalize deprived neighbourhoods.

The phenomenon interests all European countries but to a different degree (in the following pages the situation of 5 EU countries will be well documented - France, Germany, Italy, Spain and UK). It's important to underline that community gardens may receive the support of the municipality but in any case the involvement and the contribution of citizens are the crucial elements: that's why community gardens are provided to citizens and they exist only thanks to citizens. Their mobilization to use free urban spaces in order to develop community gardens is even more fundamental considering that a daily fight against the urbanization of these areas has to be undertaken. The citizens' role is therefore crucial in demanding the right of sustainable living in urban environments.

Other than the good practices that will be shown in the next pages, a very remarkable initiative has to be registered in The Netherlands, precisely in Rotterdam, where the Rotterdam Social Affairs and Employment Department decided to invest its active inclusion funds in the development of two Community Gardens. Creating jobs and strengthening the social cohesion were the most important objectives of this initiative.

To help improve cohesion, residents in each neighbourhood have been closely involved in the design and the development of the community gardens, with their ideas and requirements being taken into account. The full evaluation of the outcomes of this initiative is in progress but the results are already remarkable. People in these neighbourhoods meet others from different age groups and backgrounds overcoming the stereotypes they previously had.

Another interesting example can be found in Ireland where urban community gardens are taken into account as a crucial component in the strategy of sustainable development of a city. In fact, community gardening is now beginning to be recognised for the contribution towards residents' quality of life that it can bring, rather than the more traditional role of urban growing for the provision of the food.

At the moment, in Dublin there are around 40 community gardens. A very important recognition of their role is contained in the "Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas – Guidelines for Planning Authorities" issued by the Department of the Environment in 2008. In fact, it contains a requirement for community gardening to be a consideration in new developments.

Instead, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are in a different phase. During the 50s, plots of land were distributed to workers in order to make up the deficiencies of food crops that the State wasn't able to provide. The fall of the wall of Berlin, the opening of the countries to liberalism and socio-economic changes resulted in significant modifications to the community gardens. They became marginalized spaces more and more utilised for the urbanisation of the cities. Now, the question of what is the future of these areas is on the agenda of policy makers. For instance, the Hungarian Ministry in charge of management of the territory has entrusted the Institute of Management of the Environment at the Agricultural University of Gödöllö with the task of making a national inventory of the community gardens. The aim of this study was to understand what is possible for these areas in the future. The results show that the future of these gardens is of crucial importance. The time of centralised decisions is finished and now making decisions is a right of local communities. The study adds that the community gardens bring about attractive lifestyles and environments. Their development is desirable not only for the users of these gardens but for the whole community. The preservation of the culture and environmental values of these gardens can contribute to meet individuals and collective interests.

Therefore, despite the different paths followed, all the experiences highlight that community gardens are tools through which citizens can play an active role for developing sustainable lifestyles and places in their cities.. In this process citizens become the main actors of community empowerment and contribute to their own wellbeing.

State of the art

FRANCE

Local context in France

The EU'GO project takes place within the PACA region in France: Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur. It's a Mediterranean region with a mild climate. The region is divided into six « départements» (French territorial NUTS-3 division). The three coastal ones are the « Bouches-du-Rhône», the « Var » and the « Alpes-Maritimes». The two alpine ones are the « Hautes-Alpes» and the « Alpes de Haute Provence». The « Vaucluse » is a continental *département*. PACA is very densely populated with 4,882,913 inhabitants in total and 155 inhabitants per square meter.

The PACA region is, on one side, a very urbanized area, with 94,3% of its inhabitants living in the major cities, like Marseille, Nice, Toulon or Avignon. On the other side, the alpine and continental areas are more rural, and don't face a big density of population.

The major activities of this region are tourism (1st hosting place for French tourists, and 2nd in terms of foreign tourists) with a large offer of services with nautical activities, mountain sports, Protected areas, cultural; agriculture (wine, olive-trees, flowers, market gardening); industry (petrochemical industry, nuclear, naval shipyards, metallurgy, petroleum refinement).

This region is not homogeneous in terms of density of population, and therefore in terms of job opportunities, integration, life quality, health, education, etc. For example, the unemployment rate reached 9.1 % at the end of 2011, which is higher than in total France (7.2%) and the "Bouches-du-Rhône" has a 10.2 % unemployment rate, the highest of the PACA region. Marseille, capital of this *département*, is a multicultural city with a lot of people coming from Maghreb, Western Africa, Comores, etc. which give a very special cultural frame to Marseille. The diversity of languages heard makes the people feel as if they are living in a new tower of Babel!

Population des départements de Paca en 1999 et 2008

	Population	
	nombre d'habitants	
	2008	1999
Alpes-de-Haute-Provence	157 965	139 561
Hautes-Alpes	134 205	121 419
Alpes-Maritimes	1 084 428	1 011 326
Bouches-du-Rhône	1 966 005	1 835 719
Var	1 001 408	898 441
Vaucluse	538 902	499 685
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	**4 882 913**	**4 506 151**
France métropolitaine	62 134 963	58 518 395

Source : Insee - Recensements de la population

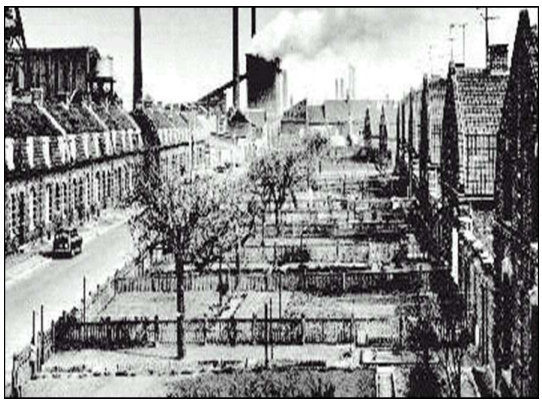
In this context, it seemed interesting to us to focus on the big cities and their problems, and to offer an alternative solution for a sustainable development; that's how we decided to work on the tool of the urban gardens.

Historical and political context of urban gardens in France and in our area

Collective gardening has a rich history in France, and can be traced back to at least the middle ages when communal lands were owned by an entire village for example. In the past two centuries collective gardening meant mainly worker gardens, "Jardins ouvriers" that were developed through employers' philanthropy and charity, mainly in the North. To "offer" a garden to a worker contributed to providing food for the often miserable workers, but was also a way to pay the workers less and to make them even more dependent on the factory, as was often the case in the provision of housing.

At the end of the XIXth century there was a new dimension of morality in the development of those gardens. To the social Catholicism of that period the world of factories corrupts both minds and bodies. In this context attributing a garden to the head of a family is as much a charitable help with food as an intention to occupy them with healthy practices, far away from pubs and gambling meetings. The Abbot Lemire (Member of Parliament for the city of Hazebrouck, North) created in 1896 the "Ligue du coin de terre et du Foyer", "League of the patch of land and Dwelling» to promote the worker collective gardens, and promote the idea of each worker family installed in a house with a garden. It also valorizes the "free" work of the gardener, master of its time and production process against the industrial work and the "slave" work of the peasant. In 1921 that ligue created the first attempt at a national network: the "Fédération Nationale des Jardins Ouvriers de France".

Garden of the Cité St Pierre district, Lens 1906



Gardens of Wazier, minig city next to Douai

The worker gardens were developed in the first half of the XXth century, and through the Second World War. They were re-Christianized "Jardins Familliaux" ie "Family gardens" in 1952 but many of them disappeared in the reconstruction after the war, when land was taken to build/rebuild houses. Their federation became the "Fédération Nationale des Jardins Familliaux", "National federation of family gardens". In the 70's they became more protected by the law (a municipality wanting to take the land for construction must provide the same surface elsewhere) and were re-legitimated by the discovery of the hard poverty that strikes a

a growing part of the French population. In 2006 the federation became the "Fédération Nationale des Jardins Familiaux et Collectifs", "National federation of family and collective gardens". Those gardens are generally located on the peripheries of cities, with plots of average surface 50 to 150 m2, typically fenced and with a small shed. They have internal regulation that can refer to the type of plants to be cultivated (eg: only vegetables, at least 80% vegetables -flowers, one fruit tree per plot...), the shape of the shed, the percentage of soil to be cultivated on the plot (e.g. no lawn, less than 20% not cultivated ...) among other things. Their main objective is to produce food, although they tend to open to new activities like environmental education and leisure.

Another form of collective gardens are the gardens related to the national railway company SNCF: The worker gardens attributed to SNCF staff are grouped in the organization "Jardinot, Jardin du cheminot". Those gardens located close to the railways or stations were originally restricted to SNCF staff but are now opening to anyone although most of the plots seem to be still cultivated by SNCF staff or their families. Those gardens do not exist in all the parts of France, but the organization is active on all the national territory offering field trip, meetings and exchanges between members, as well as gardening advice.

At the end of the 70's a new current branched from the "classical" collective gardening: the Second World War and its deprivations encouraged urban inhabitants to use public space to grow what was missing in stores. In the mid 70s, in New York and in cities across North America, popular initiatives developed vacant places turning them into garden area. Over 750 community gardens were created in New York City! These were not only about producing food, but also about meeting on common ground and collective projects. Soil and ideas are shared.

In the mid-80s, in France, some social workers, grassroots activists and other gardeners were interested in these practices of collective ownership. The "Fondation de France" , (a national foundation that administrate many funds and foundations in France) saw this as an opportunity to develop social link, while taking into account, even partially, the concerns of self-sufficiency. The Fondation de France helped funding several trips overseas to study the conditions for the emergence of such initiatives in France. Small groups worked on these issues and adapted, among other practices, North American practices to our urban and sociological data, in different parts of France. They met during two conferences in Lille (1997) and Nantes (1999) several hundred people involved in similar initiatives or wishing to develop them and that was the start of the national network of shared gardens, called JTSE "Le Jardin dans Tous Ses Etats" ("The Garden in all its Forms").

Numerous different terms are used to describe those gardens: Jardins communautaires (Community gardens), jardins de proximité (proximity gardens), jardins collectifs d'habitants (collective gardens for inhabitants), jardins de voisinages (neighbourhood gardens), jardins de pied d'immeuble(foot housebuilding gardens), Jardins solidaires (solidarity gardens) are used in different parts of France or in differents contexts, but the national group choose to use the term of shared gardens, Jardins Partagés.

The RJSM, our local organisation, was created as part of this "JTSE" dynamic but in its case the reference term is more "Jardin solidaire" "Solidarity gardens" because it was chosen prior to the national term, and kept.

The 90's correspond in France with a renewal of the garden and gardening: gardens and gardeners are visible in the media, gardening is a trendy leisure activity, garden shops are developing fast, gardening is no longer limited to specialised shops. The gardening world has its yearly events, from the very chic exhibition to the local plants and cuttings barter. The ministry of culture created the national days of gardens "Rendez-vous au jardin" which take place every first week-end of June since 2001. The 90's were also a period with economical facilities for the non profit associations, with special contracts, the "emplois jeunes" for young people easily available to create a new activity. In this context numerous initiatives of collective gardening which were flourishing around the country took the form of associations with one or a few employees assuring the quality and continuation of the project. However the situation has been changing dramatically recently for the associations, with the end of the "emploi jeunes" in 2005, the global diminution in subventions in all sectors, and the harsh reduction of financial help to employment in the last 2 years. Consequently numerous structures have disappeared or been in difficulties. This has forced the gardens and the association to devise new ways of doing things to survive and to be creative to adapt.

In 1998 the French government created two special devices for integration:

-Insertion par activité économique: Integration by economical activity to employ unemployed persons with social or particular professional difficulties called "chantier d'insertion". In that system the employee has a real work contract for a 6 month to 1 year period, and the employer receives finacial support from the government.

-social integration actions: to socially integrate people that cannot, at a time, integrate the economical activity. The activity is supported financially by the government and the participating persons are helped by social services.

Some gardens developed in those two systems. Two main networks exist in France: Reseau Cocagne is constituted by vegetable farms, Chantier ecole is a group organisation creating and maintaining gardens and green spaces among other activities developed in those integration systems. As integration is often one of the diverse activities of a non profit organisation that manages a garden many collective gardens can be part of those networks.

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www.reseaucocagne.asso.fr www.fnars.org www.chantierecole.org

Urban gardens networks

We have identified four main networks of collective gardens in France:

- The "Fédération Nationale des Jardins Familiaux et Collectifs", "National federation of family and collective gardens"
- "Jardinot, Jardin du cheminot"
- Network of integration organisations
- The JTSE Jardin dans tous ses Etats" of which the RJSM is member.

As the RJSM is part of the JTSE network we will be working mainly with shared gardens although the EUGO project is also an occasion to work with the other forms of urban gardens.

The National Network JTSE:

United by common values, formalized in a Charter, the members of the national network represent most regions of France, where they act to promote the implementation, by the people, of shared gardens. Managed by a group of regional structures, associations and cooperatives, the JTSE is a recognized interlocutor by the various official bodies, proposal force behind many publications, training or meetings about the issue of shared gardens. Nowadays the national network of shared gardens can no longer rely on financial support for its foundation ("Fondation de France"), but is running more on a volunteering system. The JTSE generally holds 4 annual 2 day meetings a year, each regional network hosting in turn. The JTSE is now a recognized interlocutor for various official organizations and is still working on different themes related to the shared garden. It is organizing again this year, 2012, a major national conference on the theme of urban gardens and the citizen initiatives to feed the cities, to be held in Strasbourg in October.

Regionally, there is a wide variety of situations: In some region a clear public policy supports the emergence of shared gardens and local administration organize a network or strongly help financially the organization in charge of the local networks, but in other parts of the territory the networks do not have such opportunities.

In some areas the organization in charge of the network develops and creates new gardens which become part of the network. In our area (the south of France, Mediterranean region) the network was constituted by grouping together preexisting gardens/structures. The RJSM organization relies on a group of active volunteering structures which lead the network; some structure or garden can assume an important role in the life of the network for a moment then become less implicated and then become again more implicated, depending on for example capacity or interest of the staff members. The regional council of the Région PACA supports the network.

The RJSM is the representing JTSE in Provence Alpes- Côte d'Azur and has members in the Gard and Herault. The RJSM headquarters is located in Charleval, a small village in the Bouches-du-Rhone (48 km from Marseille). The RJSM is represented by local correspondents in areas defined by their geographical and geological setting:

- Provence limestone, Coastline (Bouches du Rhône and west Var)
- Crystalline Provence, Côte d'Azur (East and Central Var, Alpes Maritimes)
- Alpine regions (Haute Provence, Hautes Alpes)
- Region Alpilles, Luberon, Vaucluse
- Region Gard, Herault

The gardens

There is a wide variety of urban gardens in the territory of RJSM. Most of those gardens are related to a non-profit organisation (French Loi de 1901 system) which gives a legal status to any group of people registered with the local prefecture. A few other gardens are related to a social/educational structure like a school, a hospital or a centre for special needs people and very few have no special status but are only the fact of some people being together to garden. Each garden is unique, distinguished by location or by the type of activities that are practiced there but we can try to categorize them by the kind of activities they aim to do:

Pedagogical gardens:

Devised for environmental education, they usually have employees receiving the school/groups in the garden or going inside the schools and centres to do some activities related to the garden or the environment or sometimes to install gardens inside the structures. They often include vegetable and flower gardens, sometimes orchards, and often "wild" flora areas.

Jardin des Aures, Marseille

Jardin de l'Espérance, La Ciotat

Integration gardens:

The garden is a resourceful place, conducive to the resumption of confidence in oneself and others, and a springboard to employment. These gardens can be for social inclusion, in which case the coordinator is an employee, but the beneficiaries are volunteers; or for economical integration, in which case the beneficiaries are employees as well.

Jardins de l'Espérance, La Ciota

Jardilien, Aubagne

Coté Jardins Solidaires, Nîmes

Inhabitant gardens

This is a shared space (usually public), hosted and managed by a group of residents in a dynamic development of neighbourhood life.

Shared gardens

These gardens often mix individual and collective plots, some of them have a professional coordinator, at least part time, and who helps in organising the life of the garden. There is a social objective which is supported by the owner of the land, usually a public institution, or a social landlord.

Jardins du Vieux Moulin,
Salon de Provence

Jardin des cerises,
Digne Les Bains

Jardin des Aures,
Marseille

Family gardens

These gardens include individual plots for cultivation and collective facilities. They usually don't have paid staff and are run by volunteers in a non profit organization.

Comm'un jardin de Mey,
Meyrargues

Les Jardins de la Coudoulouse,
Pertuis

Thematic gardens

A garden may also specialize to be therapeutic, culinary, artistic, experimental, conservatory of rare plants or useful, heritage, etc. This kind of garden can be part of our network if it is managed and cultivated with collective participation, in the form of non profit organisation.

In the EUGO program we have contacted more than 50 gardens in the RJSM area, and a few others elsewhere in France in order to find as many potential good practices as possible, we are not able to say at the moment which of them will participate in the experimentation part of the project as it will depend on which practices are selected by the other European partners to test, and which practices they will have to offer for testing, from which we will know which of the contacted gardens are interested to participate. You will find however the garden info sheets of our most probable potential participant in the attached document. The list of our potential participant is not definitive yet and may evolve if we receive answers from new gardens.

ENGLAND

Local context in UK

- 535,300 - Total estimated population in Cornwall in 2010 (ONS mid year estimates, 2011)
- 697 - Total km of coastline in Cornwall
- 3,563 - Total square km of land in Cornwall
- £7 billion - Total value of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's economy in 2009 (Office for National Statistics)

We are based in Millbrook, a large village in SE Cornwall (population 3,500). The village was historically a rural outpost of the city of Plymouth, 15 km away, and provided very many workers to the military and commercial dockyards and shipbuilders of the city. With the rapid decline in these industries, Millbrook has been left with a difficult socio-economic position, as jobs have disappeared and the transport links to take workers to their jobs have been withdrawn. As a result, unemployment is high and access to services is very limited. Partly as a result of our isolated location, Millbrook has a thriving voluntary sector, with many local groups running a huge range of activities, this includes a regular seed exchange event in the spring, where gardeners can come and exchange plants or seeds for the coming year.

A couple of years ago, Millbrook set up a local Transition Group, to consider how the community could provide a more sustainable environment and they have established a limited number of community allotments and a farmers market that is held in Millbrook once a month. There are also a number of local food producers providing seasonal fruit, vegetables, salad, eggs and meat in the area, which includes home delivery if you wish it.

The schools in Millbrook also have their own gardens and they are very active in encourage the local children to participate and grow things for the community.

The Quality of life in Cornwall wholly depends on individual circumstance. For some people life is comfortable, even affluent, with the usual concerns regarding the impacts of recession on house prices and pensions. These people are generally in employment, own their own house, take regular holidays. However, even for some of those in full time employment, such concerns are unreal. Wages are low across the board[1], and many people are struggling to make ends meet. In a county where the average house price is 10 times the average annual earnings[2] some people are finding it difficult to keep their heads above water. In parts of the larger towns 4 in 10 adults of working age claim out of work benefits[3].

For many, life is a constant battle to escape debt, with people working multiple jobs[4] that are seasonal, or low paid (or both) and/or with unsocial hours. As a consequence, the prevalence of loan sharks offering a short term route out of trouble has increased, with loans of 270% APR[5].

Cornwall has an increasing number of carers both young and old, an increasing number of children and young people with learning difficulties and a significant number of children who are living in poverty[6]. We also have increasing numbers of older people, and a relatively high proportion of disabled people.

Some residents are locked in a cycle of dependency on drugs or alcohol with their associated problems that include crime and disorder as well as deteriorating health outcomes.

The idyllic pictures of Cornwall of farmers and fishermen, mask the harder reality of their existence. They face long hours, falling incomes and the unchecked influence of supermarkets and regulation, that sees them losing money on a litre of milk, fish thrown back due to catching quotas, and potatoes left in the ground to rot. This is in stark contrast to the food banks opened in Truro and Wadebridge for those struggling to feed their families.

For many of our families there are often very real choices to be made between heating and other essentials for daily life[7]. This is exacerbated by the lack of mains gas outside the largest towns. 5% of housing stock is unfit, concentrated in private rented properties, which are most likely to be occupied by those on low incomes and benefits.

Cornwall's valued landscape, seascape, coastline and moors is at the heart of our perception of place, a true asset. However, many people remain isolated, whether due to remote location, lack of mobility or fear of what is outside the front door.

The local Council is concerned about jobs and levels of income, affordable housing, feeling safe, having access to services, and the future of the planet.

References

http://www.cornwall.gov.uk

[1] 25% of full time female employees earn less than £275 per week (gross pay, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, resident based, 2010). These are approx 14% less than the lowest 25% of England FT employees. FT earnings for all employees on a 3yr average are 20% below the national average. See Local Economic Assesssment for latest data.

[2] UK figure is 8 times, Cornwall figure is 10.3 times income - 2008.

[3] The Cornwall figure is close to national average at 15% and higher than the SW figure of 13%. Department for Work and Pensions. See worklessness assessment.

[4] SW has the highest rate of employed people with a second job – 5.7% of UK 3.8% (2008). See Local Economic Assesssment for latest data.

[5] Wed. Sept 30th WMN - In the first quarter of 2009, CAB North Cornwall increased its debt work by 145%, employment cases by 101% & housing work by 70% compared to 2008. Source: Cornwall Citizens Advice Bureau.

[6] 19% of children aged under 15 in Cornwall live in poverty. NI116, chld poverty statistics, Aug 2008, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. See Child Poverty Needs Assessment for latest data.

Historical and political context of urban gardens

UK residents have relied on community gardens as an important source of food for hundreds of years. However, it is mainly since the 2nd World War that community gardens and city farming have come into their own. During the Second World War, community allotments were set up on inner-city sites to provide affordable fresh fruit and vegetables to the local area. Then in the 1960s there was a renewed interest in green spaces in cities, inspired by the growth of the community gardening movement in the United States. Some groups of people began to take over patches of derelict land in their neighbourhoods to make community spaces. Many community gardens were created when many vacant sites were transformed into green spaces that included vegetable plots and flower gardens. As these spaces evolved, they were used to address social and health problems.

Throughout the UK, there are now more than 120 city farms and school farms, nearly 1,000 community gardens and a growing number of community-managed allotments.

Over the last few years in the UK, there has been a national increased interest "growing your own", this has come out of individual concerns about health, climate change and general well-being and sustainability. As a result, there are now many projects and initiatives that aims to tackle the demand for community gardening and food growing.

Initiatives in the South West

Cornwall Community Food and Composting Project

- Three year project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Local Food Scheme
- Breaks down food growing and composting into easy and practical steps by supporting people to grow food and compost at home in containers or in their gardens also supports six groups setting up their own community garden project. The aim is to make fresh, organic produce more easily accessible to people throughout Cornwall.

http://www.cornwallwasteaction.org.uk

Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change (CN4C) – Grow your own food

- Offer support through easy and practical steps to learn how to grow your own food
- Provide free basic tools and materials to get started
- For those who don't have a garden they can also supply a small number of containers and show people how to make the most out of a small space.

http://www.cn4c.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=48&Itemid=53

Growing together

- Community Greenspace project in the China Clay area of Cornwall
- Link owners of unused gardens with other local people who would like to grow their own food but don't have access to a growing space
- Provide help and support for beginners to get started

http://communitygreenspace.org.uk/

Horticultural healing

- The Horticultural Healing Project supports people recovering from mental health problems or with acquired brain injuries, by using horticulture as a therapy medium.
- Clients work with an experienced manager supported by supervisors and volunteers.
- The training offered to clients is largely informal and is tailored to individual needs and abilities.
- Training can include the use of machinery and machinery maintenance, plant identification, propagation, food growing and other elements of horticulture and grounds maintenance.

http://www.southwest.groundwork.org.uk/what-we-do/case-studies/2009/09/horticultural-healing.aspx

Local network and partners

Mount Edgcumbe House and Garden

Local stately home at Cremyll, open to the public, about 10 minutes away from Millbrook
Has extensive gardens open to the public. KCE already has links with Mount Edgcumbe as they provide us with volunteer placements for working in the gardens

Fourlanesend County Primary School

Local Primary School (ages 4-11) with community garden. Need help to manage the garden
Maybe helpful for identifying good practices.

Millbrook Church of England Primary School

Local Primary school (ages 4-11). Active in gardening with the children. May be useful for good practices

The Echo Centre

Local day care centre for disabled people at Liskeard, about 45 minutes away from Millbrook
Possible source of beneficiaries/participants for EUGO. They don't have a garden at the moment, but would be interested in encouraging their clients to manage some of the land in the grounds that they have.

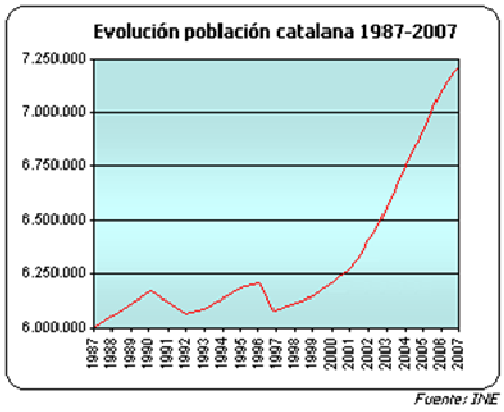
Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens

The Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens exists to support, represent and promote community-managed farms and gardens across the United Kingdom. They already produce some training material about setting up a community garden. KC English has made contact with the local representative in the South West and hopes to involve her in the project in the future.
http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/farms-gardens/your-region/south-west-england

SPAIN

Local context in Spain, Catalonia

Nexes is situated in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain. Catalonia is the north-east region of Spain with autonomic status and its own language. Second region for population, Catalonia is one of the strongest regions of Spain.

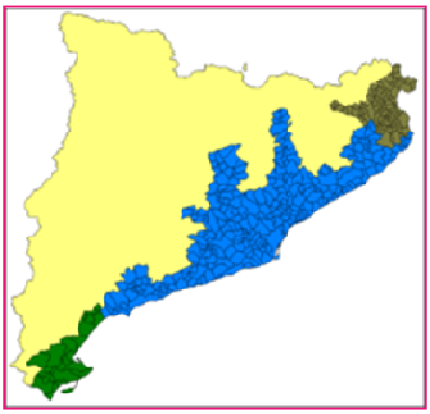


Population and territory

Catalonia has 7,364,078 inhabitants, according to the population census of 2008, after some years of constant growth particularly as a result of foreign immigration. It represents 15.9% of the total population of Spain and makes Catalonia the second region of Spain for population. At present, a little over 60% of Catalans were born in Catalonia, 20% were born in other communities in the State and approximately 15% are of foreign origin. One out of three Catalans is between 20 and 39 years of age, the largest population group.

Catalunya has 946 municipalities but very few rural population as 95% of the population is currently living in 300 municipalities of more than 2000 inhabitants. The Urban Region of Barcelona includes 5,416,447 (2008) people and covers an area of 2.268² and about 1.7 million people live in a radius of 15km from Barcelona. That represents 74% of the population of Catalonia and 11.8% of Spain's Population.

With a surface area of 32,107 m², Catalonia has a very diverse and divided orography, with extensive mountain ranges mirroring the coastline, inland depressions, mountain peaks reaching 3,000 metres high in the Pyrenees, and just 240 metres to the south is a delta that collects the sediments from one of the most abundant rivers of the Iberian peninsula: the Ebre. The orography itself is notably responsible for the climate. While it can be said that the winters are mild and the summers are hot and dry, the temperatures themselves vary considerably between the coastline and the inland plains and the Pyrenees.



90% of the population of Catalonia is living in a third part of the territory, called "franja costera" (coast border) in about 9.235 km². This part of the territory has a high density of population. If the average of Catalunya is 234.8 inhabitants per square metre, the Barcelonese area (Barcelona, Hospitalet, Santa Coloma and Sant Adrià) has a density of 15.412 inhabitants per square metre!

Sources and references:

General government of Catalonia www.gencat.cat/catalunya/eng
Statistical Institute of Catalonia www.idescat.cat

Culture and Language

Catalan culture has developed its own unique and universal identity over the centuries. The innovative flair, creativity, capacity to absorb different influences, co-existence and tolerance values have shaped a culture that is both national and cosmopolitan.

Traditionally, art and thought trends seep into Catalonia as a result of the country's geographic location, open to the Mediterranean and European countries, and also due to the leading spirit and attraction created by Barcelona. Catalonia has always been an intersection of cultures and influences.

The most modern trends coexist in harmony with the most deeply-rooted traditions, some of which have been declared intangible heritage of humanity by UNESCO. The popular festivals are a good reflection on how the people of Catalonia have preserved their cultural heritage: the traditional national dance called the 'Sardana' is always present and activities that seemed incredible such as the 'castells' or human towers have been perfected, a tradition of the districts of Tarragona that has spread to other parts of the country.

Catalan is the common language used at school and its use is standardising the media, financial world and cultural productions. Catalan was established between the 8th and 10th Centuries as an evolution of Latin, as were Spanish, French, Italian and the other Romance languages.

With regard to Spanish, nearly most citizens understand and speak it. It is the official language as well as Spanish in Catalonia and it is the only official language in Andorra. As a result, it is calculated that there are a total of nine million people that speak Catalan and 11 million that understand it. It is therefore situated ahead of 14 official languages of the European Union and it is the ninth most spoken language. But the high increase of the immigrant population led the government to establish laws and measures in order to protect Catalan language and keep it alive.

Even though bilingualism should be seen as culturally rich, the use of the Catalan language also causes misunderstandings and tensions between Catalan speakers and non Catalan speakers (Spanish, foreigners, etc.).

Politics and Economy

Catalonia is an autonomous community and exercises its self-government in the Spanish State in accordance with the Constitution of 1978 and the new Statute of Autonomy, approved in 2006. The Generalitat is the institutional system around which Catalonia's self-government is politically organised and it dates from 1359.

The Generalitat has extensive competencies in matters such as education, health, citizen security and civil protection, culture, linguistic policy, industry, urban development, housing, regional politics, transport and the environment, among others. Catalonia has its own police force, the Mossos d'Esquadra, which has been covering the full territory since November 1st, 2008. Catalan civil law is applied in legal matters, of historical tradition, the modification of which is the exclusive competence of the Generalitat.

Industrial activity is very important for the overall economy of Catalonia, particularly in the chemical, food, energy, metal and transport material sectors. Nevertheless, in recent years, special attention has been paid to logistics and the knowledge economy, an activity that is growing all over Europe. The commitment to new technologies and the audio-visual industry is already giving a distinct personality to the Catalan economy.

Another field for which Barcelona is noted is its business schools, a point of reference all over the world. In recent years, tourism has increased in such as way that it has become one of the most notable economic activities of Catalonia. This phenomenon has had a particular impact on the consolidation and expansion of commercial activity.

However, the crisis has strongly affected the economy of the whole country since 2008 and today, the rate for unemployment for young Spanish people is over 50%. In Spain, the crisis was generated by long term loans (commonly issued for 40 years), the building market crash which included the bankruptcy of major companies, and a particularly severe increase in unemployment, which rose to 22.9% by December 2011. Among these, according to the *Financial Times*, there was Spain's huge trade deficit, the "loss of competitiveness against its main trading partners" and, also, as a part of the latter, an inflation rate which had been traditionally higher than those of its European partners, back then especially affected by house price increases of 150% from 1998 and a growing family indebtedness (115%) chiefly related to the Spanish Real Estate boom and rocketing oil prices. House ownership in Spain is above 80%. The desire to own one's own home was encouraged by governments in the 1960s and 70s, and has thus become part of the Spanish psyche. As feared, when the speculative bubble popped Spain became one of the worst affected countries. According to eurostat, over the June 2007-June 2008 period, Spain has been the European country with the sharpest plunge in construction rates. Actual sales over the July 2007-June 2008 period were down an average 25.3%. So far, some regions have been more affected than others: Catalonia was ahead in this regard with a 42.2% sales plunge while sparsely populated regions like Extremadura were down a mere 1.7% over the same period.

Sources and references

www.elpais.es *www.gencat.cat/catalunya/eng*
www.ft.com(Financial Times) *www.eurostat.eu*

Barcelona

Barcelona became modern in 1992, when the Olympic Games put the city on the world map and fomented the major urban transformation from when Cerdà's Eixample was built. Barcelona was discovered to be a city that was full of social and cultural vitality, open to the world and all cultures. Since then, it has been ranked as one of the favorite cities among tourists and a huge number of tourists come every year. The city lies on a coastal plain constrained by the Collserola hills and the rivers Llobregat and Besos. These topographic constraints have produced urban congestion and high residential densities.

Barcelona has a large tertiary sector, its traditional manufacturing industries have been declining, and multinational investment has become increasingly important. The rapid development of Technical Parks for high-tech industry is a modern feature associated with the growth of what is becoming known as the European 'sun-rise' belt, along the Mediterranean coast between Valencia and Northern Italy. Barcelona suffers from serious traffic congestion and has the unenviable reputation as being the second noisiest city in Europe after Sofia.

In the last twenty years, two major events, the 1992 Olympic Games and the Universal Forum of Cultures 2004 have enabled the city to undergo a transformation more radical than perhaps any other city in Western Europe. The City authorities have been able to invest in major infrastructure projects and tackle serious inner city problems.

Urban renewal has followed a 'culture-led' approach, with planned gentrification based around high-quality architecture, new museums and hotels. Changes have been most dramatic in the medieval city, where the striking Contemporary Arts Museum has helped transform one of the city's most rundown districts, El Raval. Gentrification has seen the arrival of many trendy bars and restaurants in the vicinity of the museum, but elsewhere sizeable immigrant communities have taken over apartments no longer wanted by Spaniards.

Thus Barcelona provides an excellent example of urban growth, from the middle ages to the present. Barcelona underlines the way in which modern cities combine major international trends (eg. high-rise housing, gated communities and Japanese investment) with distinctive and local characteristics (eg. Gaudi's architecture and the Catalan dimension).

Green areas in Barcelona

Barcelona is a very dense city with 5.060 inhabit/km² in the metropolitan area. The city is developing from south to north because of the sea on one hand and Collserola metropolitan park on the other hand. The park is around 1795 hectares and green areas in Barcelona cities represents 17.7m2 per inhabitant (between urban green areas and forest areas inside the city). It has around 560 hectares of urban parks.

Education to sustainable development is one of the priorities of Barcelona policies since its commitment through Agenda 21 to promote sustainable development together with many local actors (schools, NGO's, stakeholders, etc.). In this way, the Environment department of the municipality also has a network of 12 urban gardens distributed in different districts.

However, since 2006, green areas have decreased a bit (the city has lost 150 000 urban trees in 4 years).

Context of urban gardens in Barcelona and Catalonia

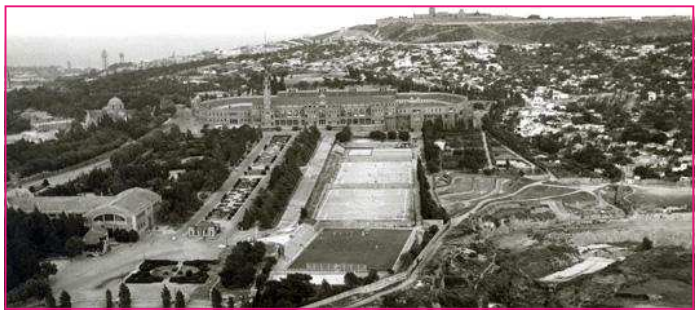
The project EU'GO is taking place in a highly urbanised area where modernity and tradition are closely linked as we described in the previous chapters.

The specificities of urban gardens in Barcelona are strongly linked with the fast urban development of the city in the last 20 years and with strong changes of mind in the society.

Also the problem of water is a current difficulty for all urban gardens in our area.

History

Although gardening has always existed in the cities as private gardens, vegetable gardens and nurseries, public green space did not appear as such until after the industrial revolution. The increasing need of workers for industrial centres in the city led to the progressive lack of living space. This increase in population was accompanied by inadequate health care, the total lack of hygiene and pollution from the factories. The concept of "Public Park", understood as a space created and funded by the city government, was born by the need to oxygenate the city to make it healthier and create a space for recreation and leisure.



In Barcelona, the creation of public green spaces started with the growth of the city walls which were demolished, in 1854. However, the first public green space of Barcelona dates from 1816: The General's Garden, created by Francis Brown, Captain General of the Principality.

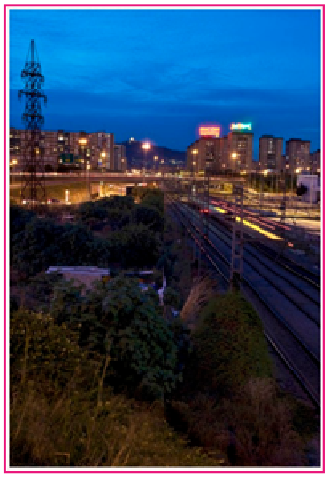
In 1872, the council of Barcelona approved the project of Josep Fontserè i Mestre to construct the "parc de la ciutadella" (citadel park) and at the beginning of the XXth century, green parks and areas began to increase in Barcelona. In 1929, another international exhibition allowed the gardening of another famous place of Barcelona: the mountain of Montjuich were the abundance of vegetation and natural sources had stimulated a large number of familiar and communitarian orchards and vegetable gardens.

The Civil War was a period of transition in the creation of new parks in Barcelona. After this and until the advent of democratic councils, the development of public areas went up especially in the arrangement of the existing green areas, which were equipped with infrastructure and equipment necessary for their use as a park. The Park Hill Monterols (1947) belongs to the first decade of this period. With the advent of democracy (80') a policy of creating green spaces was started. Many areas occupied by obsolete equipment were turned into parks, such as Joan Miró Park, built in 1983 on the grounds of the old slaughterhouse in central Barcelona.

The urban renewal that took place in Barcelona following the 1992 Olympics allowed, as it had done following the Universal Exhibitions of 1888 and 1929, parts of the city that had more deficiencies to be renovated. Renovation included both urban and green spaces.

Urban renewal and gardens

The urban development and renewal of Barcelona metropolitan area to attract new investors, tourists and produce economical development has always been a strong policy. But for 20 years (the Olympics Games in 1992), it has increased and it allows Real Estate speculation which also created some negative effects for the population: the City authorities and companies have been able to invest in major infrastructure projects and tackle serious inner city problems. Even if it made Barcelona into a modern and attractive city, it also had many social consequences for the population: evictions, destruction of entire districts, property speculation of the city, displacement of immigrants and old people outside the city, etc.



In this period, most urban gardens were held by old people, families and neighbourhood in a non formal way and were located in "no man's lands". Most of them have disappeared in the urban renewal processes. If the gentrification process of Barcelona strongly affected the urban gardens, it also obliged the citizens to organise themselves in another way: to be more organised, less informal ...That explains why a lot of urban gardens in Barcelona are also led by young people as a tool to fight against consumerism, Real Estate Speculation and to promote sustainable development and alternatives to capitalism.

Citizenship

The urban gardens are one possible attractive answer for many people.

Following the Catalan tradition of strong civil citizenship and solidarity, many neighbours organised themselves to have a small garden. The main aim is less feeding than cultural (recover the link with nature), for leisure (spending free time in gardens), for health (biologic food, cooperatives of consumers); idealistic (participate in responsible consumption and sustainable development), social (use garden as en educative or social tool for some beneficiaries) and is an opposition to the massive consumption society (new way of eating, small areas, communitarian gardens, ecological food, consumption cooperatives and groups, etc.) and against individualism and globalisation. The main topic is to find a place for that: urban gardens need space to be developed in the city and nowadays, they find their places in private balconies and gardens, public plots, communitarian terraces, on abandoned land, inschool playgrounds, squatted buildings, derelict spaces, etc. If many gardens are set up on legal properties, others are squatting a piece of land which is being ignored, accepted or tolerated by the municipality or owners waiting for a possible eviction.

Sources and references:

www.bcn.cat/mediambient
www.paufaus.net (la ciutat jubiliada)
http://huertos urbanosbarcelona.wordpress.com
Investigació Addaia Araguay Esmerats: Els horts urbans a la ciutat de Barcelona
Source: http://geographyfieldwork.com/BarcelonaUrbanDetail.htm

Networks and types of urban gardens in Barcelona

The only official network is the one from the municipality at the moment. In 2009 and 2010, young people started a network of communitarian gardens of Barcelona and organized several meetings. It has been abandoned for lack of time and resources but is now starting again from the initiative of several communitarian gardens.

Anyway, a common network between all types of gardens would be difficult due to some different objectives. There are many ways to divide types of gardens and we choose the approach based on the type of organisation:

	INDIVIDUAL USE	COMMUNITARIAN USE
SELF MANAGED	Private gardens Precarious gardens	Communitarian gardens Associative gardens
SUPERVISED MANA-GEMENT	Public gardens	School gardens Associative gardens Communitarian gardens

Private gardens

Private gardens are being developed in houses, balconies, terraces and gardens by individuals, families, neighbourhood or friends. They are generally very small plots (sometimes only some plants in flowerpots) with self management and self resources (many books of self gardening have been sold lately). The main objective is leisure and contact with nature.

Precarious gardens

They are managed by poor people (old people, immigrants) generally in illegal areas and abandoned public spaces (railways, riversides etc.). There are gardens with some small greenhouses with few resources and with main aim to feed the families and also for economic reasons. It use to represent a big area (around 8000 gardens of more than 50m2 in the eighties) but the municipality has been recovering the places during 20 years and nowadays, it represents much less even if we are not able to quantify it exactly.

http://paufaus.net: La ciutat Jubilada

Public gardens

The Barcelona Urban Gardens network is a programme by Environment Department that was designed to encourage the participation of people over the age of 65 in activities that improve the environment by looking after gardens that employ organic farming methods. This programme began in the Can Mestres gardens in 1997, although it is not the first vegetable garden in Barcelona.

The first one, called Hort de l'Avi (Grandfather vegetable garden), was opened in the Gràcia district in 1986 due to requests from a local group of neighbours. These gardens are small plots between 25 and 40 sqm where vegetables, aromatic plants and seasonal flowers are cultivated. This programme is aimed at those over the age of 65 who are registered in the district where the community garden is located. These individuals must be in proper physical condition to carry out gardening tasks and may not live with someone who already has a plot within the same community. It represents around 12 gardens divided in around 250 plots of 25-40m2. Barcelona city council is now in the process of creating a new policy of Urban Agriculture which extends its current action upon old people to individuals, families, collectives of people. The idea is to promote private gardens and also shared management of the surrounding area and neighbourhood.

www.bcn.cat/parcsijardins

School gardens

They have been developed very quickly over the past years in child care centres and primary and secondary schools thanks to the motivation and interest of teachers and parents, thanks to the association (AMPA) and also to development of programmes such as "Agenda 21" and "Green schools" in the education.

During the 2009-2010 course 30 schools were qualified as green schools in the Barcelona area and about 270 schools in Agenda 21. The municipality is editing resources to help education centres to develop school gardens. The objectives are diverse: education to sustainable development, leisure, contact with nature, food and consumption education, peer learning, outside activity, social links, etc.

http://www.bcn.cat/agenda21/a21escolar/
http://www.gencat.cat > Medi ambient > Programa Escoles Verdes

Communitarian gardens

They are increasing every day, mostly organised and managed by young people or neighbours in some legal or occupied places. The objectives are strongly linked with social transformation searching for responsible consumption, sustainable development, local production, social link, non-hierarchical organisation, etc. Plots used to be quite small (between 150-200m2). Some of them in public or private areas are lent to their users (neighbours in cultural centres, students in universities, etc.). Others are using abandoned areas and a part of the "Okupa" movement (squatters) also use urban gardens to claim against real estate speculation and to propose an alternative way of living.

Urban gardens are playing an active role in these movements to enhance intergenerational and neighbourhood connections, social cohesion and active and communitarian participation.

Can Masdeu is the most famous and bigger communitarian garden: an old leper hospital in the forest of Collserola in Barcelona, abandoned by Sant Pau hospital and squatted by young people since 2000. In 2002, the movement propose to work with seniors and old people of the district and set up gardens. In this way, they have created more than 30 plots on a 2800m2 area.

http://urbangardensbarcelona.wordpress.com

Associative gardens

The associative gardens are also increasing very fast: They are settled mostly by young people and adults interested in developing projects around gardening, sustainable education, responsible consumption, etc. The gardens are generally rented (agreements with old people who can't manage the garden anymore) or owned (family gardens) lands and the idea is to go further than the private garden: organise social activities, train people on gardening, educate and raise awareness on sustainable development and responsible consumption.

They generally have difficulties to get funds and find them through public grants, training courses, renting plots, giving advice and other activities. Some of them also can convert themselves to companies. The aims are diverse: manage plots and gardens, education to sustainable development, social and agriculture projects, etc. Some association are also working on transversal support such as seed bank associations.

This classification is not exhaustive and some gardens are difficult to classify. There should be other types of gardens not represented yet but this first selection gives an overview of the situation.

Our local network

Even if the association NEXES has been working with sustainable development projects, it is directly related to a garden and the idea was to work in network with interested gardens. We did some dissemination of the project and organised several information meetings to inform gardens about the project and detect interests.

We detected the gardens and associations interested in exchanging good practices, learning from others, discovering practices of other countries and having also something to bring and teach to the others. Our network is open and the gardens can enter all along the project.. It means that the network is not closed and is constantly moving but at the moment, we can detect a very diverse network:

- 3 associative gardens from Cardedeu (a city a 45mn from Barcelona), EsBiosfera and Phoenicurus which develop gardens to train adults, to supply responsible consumption cooperatives, organise activities, raise awareness on this topic of families from Barcelona and surroundings. Also the association Llavors orientals is a seed bank for the region.

- 3 communitarian gardens: l'Hort del Xino is based in raval, a multicultural district in the centre of Barcelona and is a self managed and communitarian garden in a squatted abandoned "solar" (when buildings are being destroyed from inside and left only the walls: it makes a closed area and piece of land). Also "Hortet del Forat" has a big history and background. In the middle of a multicultural and poor district of the centre of Barcelona, the municipality decided to destroy old houses, evict their inhabitants and create new modern buildings. The neighbourhood reacted very strongly to the speculation and ask for public places with gardens and for public consultation of local population. They occupied the place for weeks and finally succeeded: the municipality abandoned the project and transformed the place to a public place and "gave" the urban garden to the community. The location of this garden is famous and is known today as the hole of shame. Can Masdeu is also part of the project in some activities.

- A school garden in an immigrant district of a suburb of Barcelona: INS terraroja is a school garden for secondary school introduced and managed by a motivated teacher.

- A neighbourhood communitarian garden in a cultural centre: The Guinardo is a district of Barcelona where lived many old people and Spanish immigration. The "civic" centre is a public space of the municipality which offers many activities and represents a welcoming place in local life.

- The garden of Conreu Sereny (Badalona) is also working for production and self-occupation in lands of a monastery and the garden of LLavors, Fundació Benallar, a residence for immigrants, use the garden as an integration tool for its users.

Other gardens are wishing to participate and will bring up knowledge and ideas during the project.

GERMANY

Global situation, history of urban gardenning in Germany

Gardening has a long tradition in Germany. In the Middle Ages – a time when the region was essentially agricultural – gardens were laid out mainly in monasteries. They were used for the cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs.

With the Enlightenment people and nature came into focus. By means of education the people should be aware of their environment and the natural phenomena. The first school gardens were founded at the end of the 17th century. In the 18th century to the pure impart of knowledge a reformist educational approach was added. Well-known teachers such as Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, Maria Montessori and Friedrich Fröbel linked in their concepts garden work and play, body and spirit. The number of these gardens, however, remained limited.

At the end of the 19th century industrialization and urbanization began in Germany. In growing cities more and more people lived. The population density soared. There was extreme poverty and hunger, housing shortages and pollution. The bourgeoisie feared revolts of the workers.

In this crisis situation the Urban Gardening received a growing importance. Two different types can be distinguished here: the school gardens and the allotments.

School gardens

The first gardening school was founded in 1920 in Berlin as a central garden. In the following years many gardens were created directly on the school grounds. Within 10 years the concept of school gardens has been established in Germany.

This boom had not only a reformist educational background. WW I had just ended and hunger was widely spread among the people. The gardens provided mainly for the food supply. A similar picture resulted after the destruction of WW II. Here, too, hunger and reformed pedagogical approaches increased the importance of school gardens.

The division of Germany in the 40s brought with it two different development directions. In the GDR (East-Germany) the school garden work was a school subject in grades 1 to 4. Each school had its own garden. Especially in the early years the production of food was a central goal. But also here the gardening was the expression of an educational concept: the "polytechnic teaching". In addition to learning the theory the pupils had to work in practice. The children received early contact with the production and the working people.

In the FRG (West-Germany) gardening was not a school subject. The maintenance of school gardens was the decision of each school. Many gardens were neglected or converted into meadows. Only with the growth of the environmental movement the interest in school gardens increased. The reunification in 1989 provided the opportunity to take on the proven concept of the East German school gardens. This opportunity was not seized! On the contrary many school gardens were abolished in East Germany. Even in Berlin in 2010 only 35% of all schools possessed their own school garden.

Allotments

The consequences related with industrialization such as mass poverty, hunger and danger of revolts had to be contained, because the capitalist society was in danger of collapse. The establishment of small gardens proved to be a useful method. For a nominal rent, the workers received the opportunity to express themselves in nature and to produce food for their own use.

Nowadays allotments are integrated into a variety of legal regulations. Thus, the size of the plot is limited (max. 400m²) as well as the size of the arbour (max. 24m²). At least 1/3 of the area must be used to grow garden products for the own use. In addition, each allotment association has a statute that can be specified in the details of the cultivation. Even the height of a hedge can be set here. These regulations especially discourage young people. Nevertheless, the demand for a garden exceeds the existing supply of land - especially in large cities.

Now in Germany there are more than 1 Mio allotments, mostly in cities. In Berlin currently over 74.000 gardens and in Potsdam 5.600 gardens are used. In both cities the small gardens are also viewed by politicians as worth preserving. Nevertheless, sometimes the cities destroy small gardens to make way for new commercial and residential settlements.

Landscape planning

Another aspect is the tradition of landscape planning in Germany. It is rooted in garden architecture. Even gardens of the Baroque era still exist today (e.g. Sanssouci Park in Potsdam). In the course of industrialization during the 19th century (urban growth, increase of population) public parks were opened to allow residents an access to the nature. Since the 20th century the entire city is in focus of landscape planning (eg: creation of green areas between the districts for a better ventilation of the quarters). Because many communities have financial difficulties the maintenance of green spaces is not always guaranteed.

Interkulturelle Gärten (Intercultural gardens)

Meanwhile, there are 120 intercultural gardens in 16 states of Germany, and further 67 projects are being planned.

Intercultural gardens are built by people with and without migrant background. Together they sew and reap the fruits, vegetables and flowers. They share their knowledge, cook together and exchange seeds and experiences. The generated surplus they give away or trade it.

Gardening is closely linked with the awareness of the nature: the knowledge of medicinal herbs, seed multiplication and the cultivation of wild green vegetables. The beauty of nature finds a new resonance. The gardens are also a place for the conjunction of urban culture and hospitality. Migrants go out and use the public space.

The intercultural gardens have a meaning as a meeting place in the district: here festivals are celebrated, young mothers meet to organize workshops and refugee women can impart their knowledge. For example: Bosnian women organize workshops on herbal medicine in the "Rosenduftgarten" in Berlin. They produce soap and tea from marigold for their own use. In the multigenerational nature garden of Ihlow (Lower Saxony) educational activities take place. In Kaufbeuren (Bavaria) a Russian ethnic teacher is in charge of a sensory garden, which she visits regularly with Turkish-born children.

So people from all over the world with different educational backgrounds, abilities and needs interact with each other and with the nature.

The situation in Postdam and Berlin

Map of Potsdam:

	Grean area
	Water
	residential area

<u>Districts</u>

1 Potsdam Nord

2 Nördliche Vorstädte

3 Westliche Vorstadt

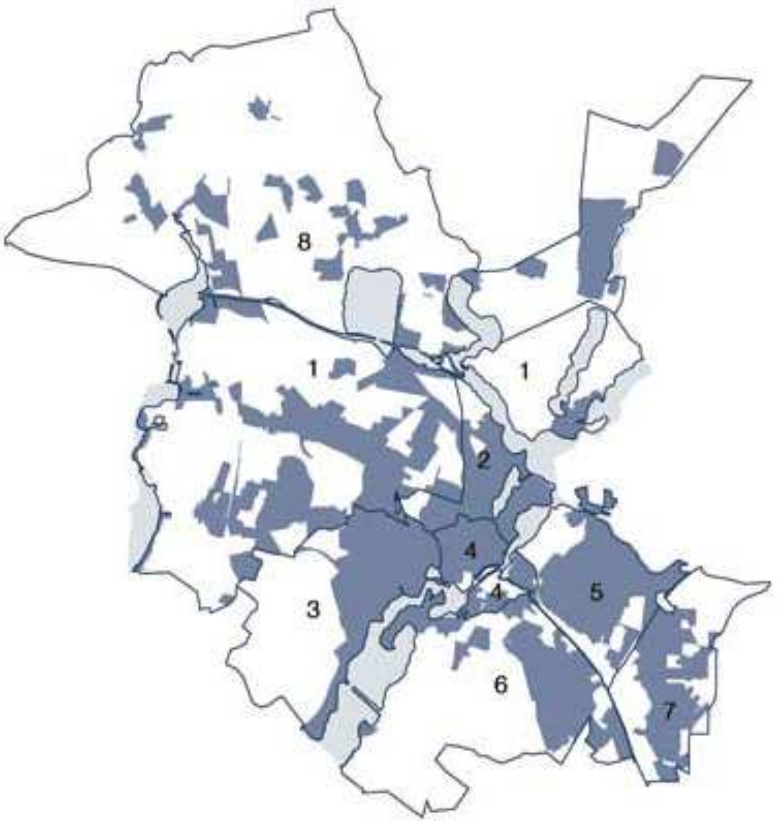
4 Innenstadt

5 Babelsberg

6 Potsdam Süd

7 Potsdam Südost

8 Nördliche Ortsteile



Source: Landeshauptstadt Potsdam (2011): Potsdam in Zahlen 2010 – Ein statistisches Stadtporträt

Potsdam is the regional capital of Brandenburg. It is very close to Berlin (20-40 min by train). It is very famous and a tourism region. The city has a lot of parks and green areas. Potsdam has a total area of around 187,5 m² (there from are: 30,7% agriculture / 25,1% forest / 4,7% recreation area / 4,2% parks and green areas).

Potsdam has many public and historical parks with a lot of regulations. In the city there are also many allotments (215 different at the moment), which are already exist since the beginning of the 20th century. They are very typical for Germany (see above).

Berlin and Potsdam are very different in relation to landscape planning and urban gardening.

After German reunification in 1990 Berlin regained its status as the capital of whole Germany. Berlin is a world city of culture, politics, media and science. Berlin has a total area of 891,85 km² (therefrom are: 4,2 % agriculture / 18,3 % forest / 11,5% recreation area / 6,7 % water). The city has a population density of 3932 inhabitans/km². This is very high.

The historical and the public parks in Berlin are famous and popular.

The 73.694 garden plots of Berlin (= 929 allotments) cover an area of approximately 3.030ha. This is 3.4% of the total city area.

Urban Gardening at Projekthaus Potsdam

We are engaged for several years in urban gardening. Last year we built a new raised bed (rock garden). On this we planted only plants which are native and have a permacultural aspect. We planted herbs for daily life (e.g. common sage) and plants as an ecological niche for insects.

An other project which we have realised is an "Insektenhotel"(insect hotel) for every kind of bees and other insects. Furthermore in order to increase the biological diversity we have built a "Benjeshecke" (dead hedge). This is a wall of wooden sticks and leaves. Thus, a habitat for insects and birds was created and the biological cycle has been strengthened. For us it is important to bring more nature into the garden, to offer a habitat for many different animals.

A very important topic for us is subsistence. We think that in a global world with a lot of environmental problems it is important to find new ways. One of this ways is to have our own garden with own products like vegetables and fruits.

We want to go back to the roots: to have our own garden with native plants and to have food without chemical fertiliser. We want to use herbs for traditional recipes and produce booklets in order to share this knowledge through the generations.

Local networks

In our region there are different garden projects. We also have our own garden as a community garden for all the people who live in the Projekthaus Potsdam and for people who want to visit us in order to work in the project. In our region we are working together with different garden projects. Every garden has its own arrangement.

Postdam

Schul- und Integrationsgarten am Schlaaz/ Interkultureller Garten Potsdam:

It is a community garden initiated with foreigner of more than 10 different nations. All the participants have her own plot and working nevertheless together.

The area where the garden exists is in ownership of the city. The garden has two different areas: one part is for the schools and kindergartens of the quarter and the other part is an "Interkultureller Garten". Here the people from different nations come together for gardening. The people have their own plots for vegetables. In addition all the gardeners can use a small house with a kitchen and toilets. In this house also the garden tools are stored.

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The main problem of this garden is right-wing extremism. In the last few years the small house was burned down three times and had to be rebuilt. But the collective got some support from the city and also from a building centre.

Wagenburg Hermannswerder/ Tornowstr. 38:

Tornower 38 is an alternative living project on the peninsula Hermannswerder. This project consists of 8 construction trailers and 1 main house. Currently there are 13 adults and 8 children living here together. The main aspect of this project is living together close to the natural environment. The project produces its own energy by photovoltaicand finds it important to re-use things.

It is also a garden project. There is a private garden for the people who live there and an "open garden". The latter is like a community garden. An open brunch with music and self-made products takes place there monthly.

The members of this project also offer workshops for children. They explain the circle of nature and build ecological niches (e.g. "Benjes Hecke" / dead hedge, "Insektenhotel" / insect hotel).

Projekthaus Potsdam:

(See above.) It is a project house with different kind of working spaces. We are also approved as a "Mehrgenerationen Haus" (more generation house). In the garden we are working together with different kind of people. We offer workshops for everybody (but especially for the youth), events in the garden, work camps and even more..

Schulgarten Freie Schule Potsdam:

The "Freie Schule Potsdam" is a small private school with pupils of the age from 6 to 12. On its ground the school has an own garden. They have founded a regular garden-group and do gardening with pupils during the lessons. In the school workshops are also offered. They explain the circle of nature and explain where the fruits and vegetables of the supermarket come from.

Urban Garten Projekt Freiland e.V. Potsdam:

It is a very new project which has existed for nearly one year. They started to create their own garden. The area of "Freiland" is an open space, mostly alternative people visit this place. It is a non-profit-organisation with its own garden-group. It is self-organised, 10-15 people of different ages work here together. The main aim of this group is to bring more green areas into the city. They want to create green places for everyone without regulations, which are very common nowadays in public parks.

Land Brandenburg

Lokomotive Karlshof (near Templin):

This cooperative is an agricultural project with the aspect of being non-commercial. The aim is not to produce vegetables to sell them on a market. Rather the production is seen as a community project. The sharing of the harvest is independent from the performance of the individual and is carried out without cash payment. The experiment began in 2006. Their garden is situated in a rural area 90 km north of Berlin. The gardeners bring their products (mainly potatoes) especially to Berlin and share them. The project is included in a network of different groups. The main working group consists of 6 persons in Templin, but the network of helpers is very big (50-70 persons).

http://www.gegenseitig.de/unsere-pag/projektgruppe-karlshof.htm

Berlin

The situation is very different to Potsdam. The gardens are placed directly in the city, in quarters with a high population density and many different nationalities.

Currently there are about 20 Intercultural gardens in Berlin and approx. 15 large community gardens. Many more are being planned. Some of the most popular community gardens are presented below.

Prinzessinnengarten Berlin:

This is currently the most famous project of Urban Gardening in Berlin. The garden (6.000sqm) is situated near Moritzplatz in Kreuzberg - a district which is well-known for a green-alternative lifestyle. This garden (founded 2009) is a "temporary use" of wasteland (the plot is object of speculation). Because the contract ends in 2013, the garden consists entirely of "mobile beds" (bakery boxes, milk cartons, rice sacks). There are only community beds, whose harvest is sold directly in a restaurant and in a shop (discounted prices for gardeners). In order to pay the very high rent (2.300 € / month), this commercial approach is needed. The garden is owned by the Nomadisch Grün gGmbH (non-profit Ltd.).

http://prinzessinnengarten.net/about/

Ton Steine Gärten:

This garden (1.000sqm) is situated in Berlin-Kreuzberg near the Mariannenplatz and the Georg-von-Rauch-Haus (a very famous former squatted house). The name Ton Steine Gärten is dedicated to the well-known music group Ton Steine Scherben which was a mouthpiece of the left movement during the 70s and 80s in Germany and used the Georg-von-Rauch-Haus for the rehearsals.

This garden is the result of an occupation. After the end of the dispute it is actually designed to be permanent (no lease payment to the city is needed). Mobile beds are not necessary. Because the city has forbidden the construction of a fence, there were problems with vandalism and theft. These problems are reduced now, because the garden is recognized in the neighborhood (long waiting lists for the takeover of beds). The garden is maintained by 40 gardeners. It consists mostly of private beds, but there are also some community beds. Operator of the garden is the incorporated society Ton Steine Gärten e.V. .

http://gaerten-am-mariannenplatz.blogspot.com

Allmende Kontor:

This garden (5.000sqm) is located on an area of the former Tempelhof Airport, which will be a future construction site for residential housing (contract ends in 2016). From this reason and because of the contamination of the airport soil there are just mobile beds (raised beds on EUR -pallets). The garden consists of about 300 private beds. The rent (5,000 € / year) is paid by donations of the 700 gardeners. An expansion of the garden is planned for 2013 (there is a long waiting lists of interested people). The project's goal is not only gardening but also the transfer of knowledge. Other garden initiatives are advised and workshops offered (e.g. the construction of raised beds). In addition the garden project wants to create a seed bank which all garden initiatives of Berlin can use for the exchange of seeds. Operator of the garden is the incorporated society Workstation Ideenwerkstatt Berlin e.V. .

http://www.allmende-kontor.de

Rosa Rose:

This project is located in Berlin-Friedrichshain, but was forced several times to change the location. Founded in 2004 on a private wasteland the garden had to be closed in 2008 because investors now wanted to build here. In winter 2009/2010 there was a short stay on a plot of the public real estate funds.

Since April 2010 the project uses a public park midst of a large residential yard. With the city council a contract was concluded. For a period of 5 years the group can use the plot without charge. Then a prolongation of the contract is possible.
http://www.rosarose-garten.net/en/home

Leasing gardens for 1 season

This is a relatively new commercial model in Urban Gardening. The idea was developed in the late 80s in Austria and spreads out for several years also in Germany.

A rental company closes a contract with a farmer. In the spring this farmer sows on a farmland (close to large cities) various vegetable and flowers. Then the field is going to divided in several plots (approx. 50 – 100 sqm) and will be offered by the rental company for 1 gardening season (approx. 200 - 400 € / plot). The gardeners are provided water, tools and planting tips. This form of Urban Gardening is currently very successful. The number of such rental companies is growing from year to year (especially in West Germany and Berlin). The largest company on this market segment is currently Meine Ernte with 20 farmlands in 16 towns. Additional locations will be opened in 2013.

Stiftung Interkultur

Stiftung Interkultur (Intercultural Foundation) is a major charitable trust in the sector of Urban Gardening. This national coordinating organization was founded in 2003. It advises on the establishment and maintenance of gardens, coordinates a research network and publishes the results. It gives financial support and offers workshops. The gardens has the opportunity to present themselves on the home page.

http://www.stiftung-interkultur.de

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ITALY

The global context

Italy is considered one of the most beautiful, romantic and distinct countries thanks to its monuments, history, arts, old cities, food and traditions. Italy is the 4th most visited country in the world.

With more than 60 million inhabitants (according to 2011 municipal records (*Anagrafe*), its population density is higher than that of most Western European countries.

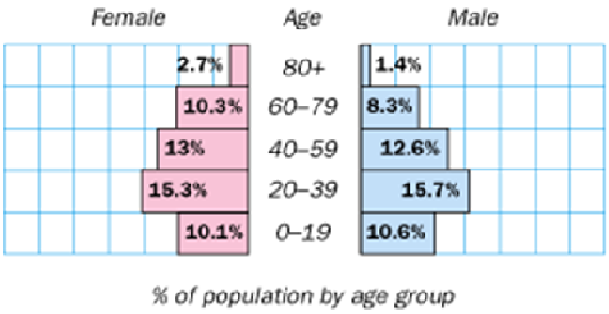
The most densely populated areas are the Po Valley, that encompasses nearly 8 regions in the North west of Italy and cities like Milan, Turin, Piacenza, Bergamo, Brescia, Parma, Bologna and the metropolitan areas of Rome and Naples, while vast regions are very sparsely populated, such as the Alps and Apennines highlands, the region of Basilicata and the island of Sardinia.

Demography

Italy used to be a country of mass emigration from the late 19th century. The term Italian diaspora refers to the large-scale migration of Italians away from Italy in the period roughly beginning with the unification of Italy in 1861 and ending with the Italian economic miracle in the 1960s. The Italian diaspora concerned nearly 25 million Italians and it is considered the biggest mass migration of contemporary times.

On the other hand during the Italian economic miracle Italy experienced a large-scale internal migration from the rural South to the industrial cities of the North. From the 1980s Italy experienced large-scale immigration for the first time in its modern history. According to the Italian government, there were more than 4.6 million foreign residents, constituting some 7.5% of the total population updated on January 2011.

ITALIAN POPULATION AGE BREAKDOWN



% of population by age group

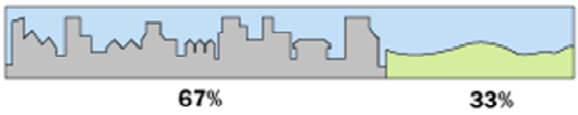
Almost 20% of the total population are over 65 years old (the third oldest country in the world after Japan and Germany), on the other hand the 17,5% of the total population are under 18 years old, thanks mainly to the massive immigration of the last two decades.

Economy

Since World War II, Italy has developed from a mainly agricultural society into a world industrial power. The economy is characterized by a large state sector, a mass of family-owned businesses which are the backbone of the private sector, relatively high levels of protectionism, and strong regional differences.

While the North is highly industrialized, the Mezzogiorno remains an exception. State attempts to attract new investment have met with success in areas immediately south of Rome, but elsewhere organized crime has deterred investors and siphoned off state funds.

THE URBAN/RURAL POPULATION SPLIT (2004)



After its quick industrial growth, Italy took a long time to confront its environmental problems. After several improvements, it now ranks 84th in the world for ecological sustainability. National parks cover about five percent of the country; barely a third of Italy's land is arable and suitable for farming.

Rome

Rome is the capital of Italy, the capital of Lazio region and the principal town of the Province of Rome. It is also the country's largest and most populated city with over 2.7residents, plus 4.2persons that usually go to Roma every day to work and live in the greater Rome area (which can be approximately identified with its administrative province).

According to the latest statistics conducted by ISTAT, approximately 9.5% of the population consists of foreign residents, while hundreds of Romani gypsies live in illegal trailer camps on the city's outskirts and there is a growing population of homeless people in Rome, mostly not Italian and estimated at 7000.

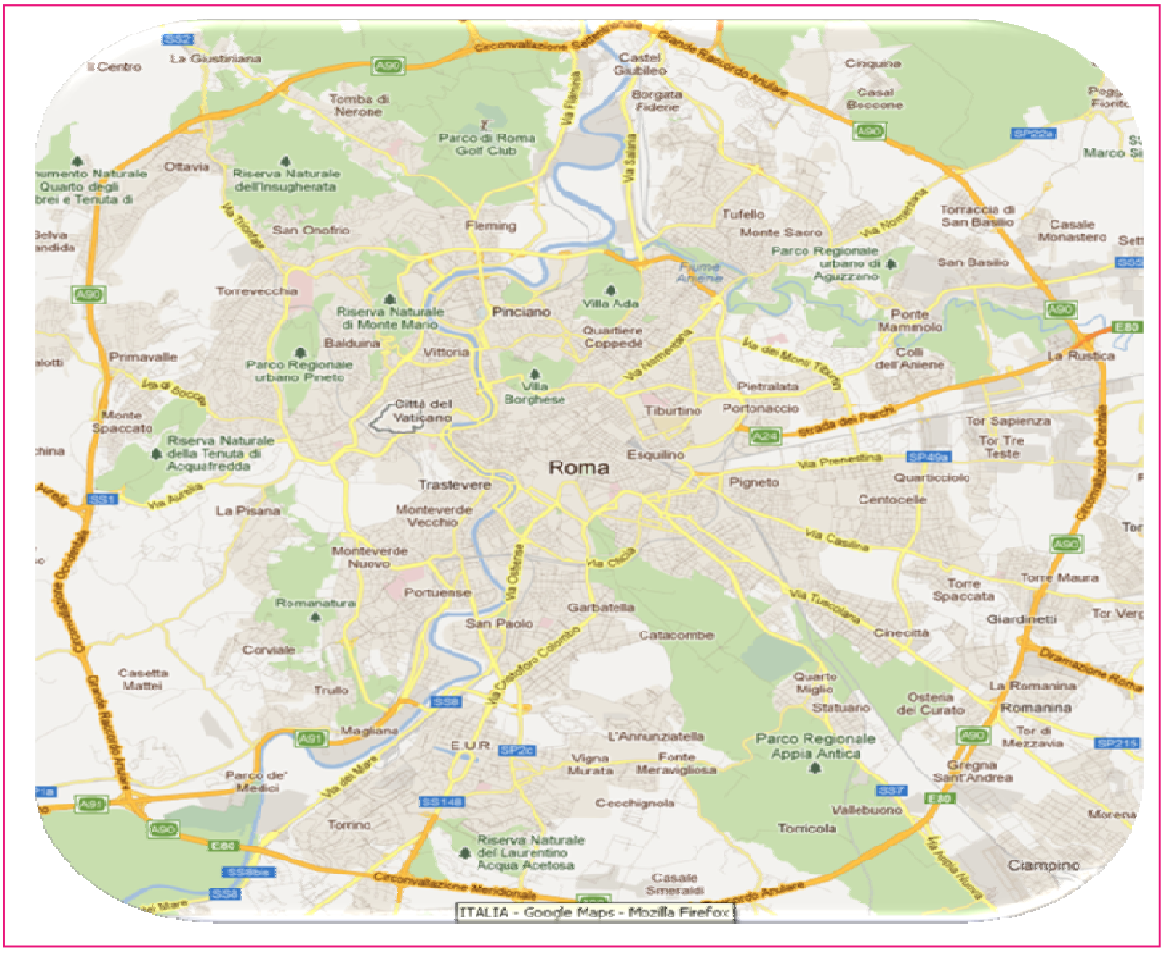
Being the capital city of Italy, Rome hosts all the principal institutions of the nation, like the Presidency of the Republic, the government, the Parliament, the main judicial Courts, and the diplomatic representatives of all the countries for the states of Italy and the Vatican City; many international institutions are located in Rome.

Although the economy of Rome is characterized by the absence of heavy industry and it is largely dominated by services, high-technology companies, research, construction and commercial activities (especially banking), and the huge development of tourism are very dynamic and extremely important to its economy.

Rome is a modern and urbanized city, with a very huge metropolitan area, but if we compare the total population with the territory's extension, Rome has one of the lowest population densities in Italy. In fact, almost 68% of its territory is green areas, not built up areas. 34% of this green territory is intended for agricultural practices and rural areas that are still inside the urban borders: this makes Roma a unique city in Europe, one of the biggest agricultural cities.

Rome occupies the forth place in Europe as the greenest city.

THE URBAN AREA OF ROME



As we can see from the map, inside the urban borders the city green areas, as parks and empty areas, are very large. This makes Rome a city with a distinct geographic conformation.

The phenomenom of urban gardens in Italy

To give a clear, universally accepted and one-dimensional definition to the modern urban gardens in Italy is quite complex. Also the translations might cause some misunderstandings.

In Italian language there are two different translations for the 'urban garden':

ORTO URBANO and GIARDINO URBANO, the first refers to a piece of land where people cultivate vegetables, flowers, aromatic herbs and fruits in a urban context; the latter refers to the same things, but it can be addressed both to the green public and private areas.

Urban gardening in Italy is not a new phenomenon.

Until the end of the XIXth century, Rome and other big Italian cities still had a rural landscape, people cultivated inside the cities, and urban gardens were very common. During the Fascist period the practice was supported and promoted in order to pursue the idea of a Rural Italy, founded on agriculture. During the second world war the urban gardens became an important subsistence tool and their number grew significantly.

The Italian economical miracle, 1950 - 1960, transformed urban gardening in an economically counterproductive practice and it became a symbol of the lower classes; during this time the urban agricultural practices were developed in marginal areas. In Italy, the phenomenon boomed in the 70's when the citizens started to regain peripheral areas (river banks, contiguous or rail areas) or half-abandoned agricultural areas and to create shared community gardens. The majority of urban gardens in Italy don't exceed 500 square meters.

The modern urban garden has changed in Italy; taking care of an urban garden is not only related to the production of food, but it has also a social, educational and hobby pastime dimension. The typical Italian urban gardener is described as being a man between 50 and 60 years old, retired, worker, employee, craftsman. But younger people, men and women are recently getting involved in urban gardening, looking for new qualitative spare time activities and motivated to contribute to urban sustainable development.

Between the north and the south of Italy the situation is different. In the north of Italy we can find many public initiatives for creating Urban Gardens; the phenomenon is widespread and cities like Bologna, Milano, Modena and Ferrara are the pioneers. The public administrations have set aside portions of land and have organised them in either individual or shared plots for the citizens.

On the Bologna municipality website there is a section dedicated to urban gardens with a registration procedure based on a waiting list system. The gardens are given to people based on criteria of residency and a family component. Renting the land costs 50€ a year and it is considered a reimbursement to the municipality for water and electricity.

In the south of Italy the situation is not so developed, apart from some isolated initiatives the phenomenon remains on a low-scale.

Urban gardens in Rome

Rome has the characteristics of an agricultural city, with cultivated lands inside the urban borders and an incredible number of parks and protected areas.

During the XIXth century it was possible to find gardens in the city center, just close to the Coliseum or the Imperial Fori, annexed to small houses built with recycled materials, the so-called *baracche*.

Today, in Rome the phenomenon of urban gardens is significant, many initiatives are becoming a political subject, a request from citizens for a better urban environment in degraded areas.

Despite this, there is no support from the municipality for the creation of legal areas dedicated to urban gardening and the citizens and the organizations find a lot of difficulties to start any legal urban garden initiative. The urban agriculture in Rome has still an informal character.

Between 2003 and 2006 U.O. Promozione Agricoltura of Rome Capital City realized the first urban gardens census, *Census of Rome's spontaneous gardens*, dedicated to the informal gardens. The census unfortunately does not contain a complete status of the informal urban gardens.

Another research project, *Recovery and use of the marginal and degraded areas of Rome* was performed in 2008 by the Geographical Italian Society in collaboration with the Capital of Rome and Tor Vergata University.

The Municipality of Rome has a dedicated urban garden department, the UNITA' OPERATIVA ORTI URBANI (Urban Gardens Operational Unit), but itdid not a establish the first park containing urban vegetable gardens until 2010. Today the park is managed by the "Fosso Bravetta" Association. Many citizens have booked their garden but there is a long waiting list and this initiative is not enough to meet the demand. The Municipality is planning to open 2 new Public Urban Gardens and it is supporting an Urban Garden project in Ciampino in collaboration with Slow Food Italy, plus other proposals coming from the citizens.

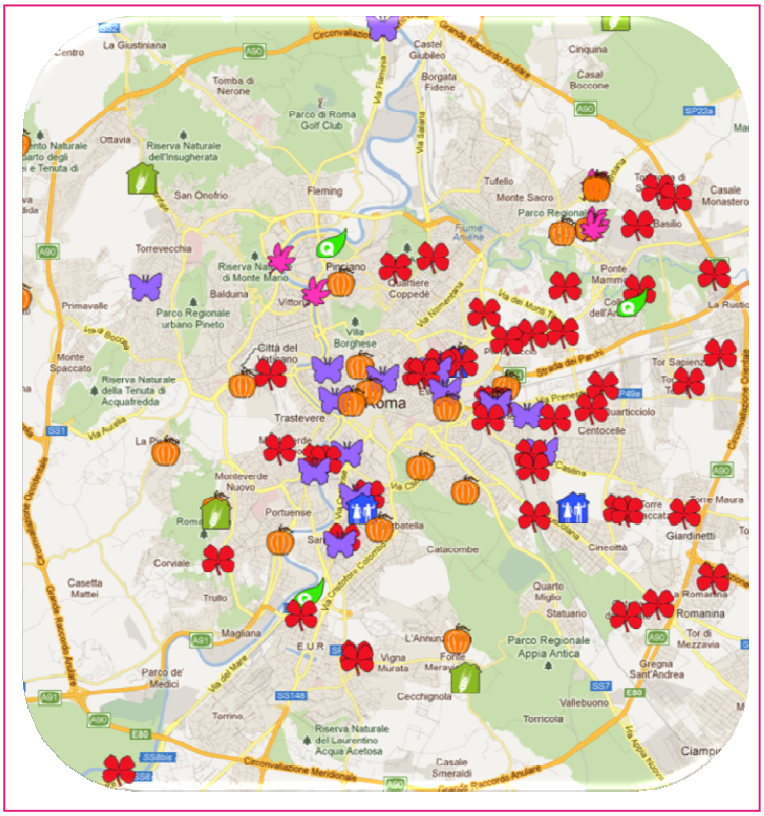
Another recent urban gardens public initiative is the Public green areas adoption (2011), an initiative of the Municipality of Rome which intends to involve citizens, associations and neighbourhood committees in the maintenance of urban abandoned public green areas.

Rome lacks a tradition regarding urban gardens administration and an urban gardens management frame. The urban agriculture in Rome has remained unrecognized, unsupported and unregulated until a few years ago.

The Roman urban agriculture maintains a strong informal character which means that the urban gardens are created and managed without a renting contract or any other form of regulation for land appropriation – all the community gardens in Rome come from citizens or associations' initiatives and the private sector is beginning to show interest in it.

Today the Municipality has opened a round table with some Urban Gardens representatives and researchers in order to define some guide lines to be approved by the Council. The road is still hard and long but the urban gardeners motivation is strong and determined to reach legal recognition.

An informal network of Urban Gardens (la Rete degli Orti e Giardini Condivisi) exists today, the member Urban gardens keep contacts and exchange knowledge and favours. For the next year (2013) they are planning together events and activities in order to structure the network and finally get a formal recognition and the legal assignment of the areas where the Urban gardens are. Rome's municipality came late to understand the multiplicity of values and meanings connected with the urban gardens, especially the value of creating relationships between citizens that the urban gardens facilitate. Because of the historical path of the Roman urban gardens, the urban gardeners are called *the new Don Quixotes*.



A bill on the urban social agriculture was presented by the Lazio Region in 2008, but is not approved yet. Now in collaboration with the Province of Rome, the two institutions are working on a legislative framework, due also to the direct involvement of the Province of Rome in the field of Social Agriculture.

Thanks to the work of studio UAP, an organisation dedicated to the architecture of public spaces and to the active participation which implemented the Zappata Romana project, Rome now contains more than 70 community gardens, community edible gardens, and guerrilla spot gardens. Adding the 67 urban gardens identified by the Municipality of Rome.

The map of Zappata Romana

In Rome the community-run green areas are more than 100:

- 51% of them are public parks and gardens where citizens take care of portions of public green.
- 26% of them are community gardens or community shared gardens, created for a social or pedagogical purposes.
- 22% are hot spot gardens, created by "guerrilla gardening" actions The so-called guerrilla gardeners carry out their actions at night, in relative secrecy, to sow and tend a new vegetable patch or flower garden.

The network

CEMEA del Mezzogiorno has identified different categories for Rome's urban garden initiatives:

- social urban gardens - urban gardens as social intercultural spaces, newly-born citizens' initiatives and farmers federation which aims to create shared community gardens.
- educational urban gardens - urban gardens dedicated to food education and environmental education projects, agricultural game room and agricultural summer camps.
- theatre laboratory urban gardens – the art of theatre and the art of gardening drawn together for food education activities and a social place for concerts.
- biological gardens with an integration purpose (social and educational Farm) – social rehabilitation projects for integration and for re-enabling people with disabilities by using the practice of gardening.
- Mixed gardens areas – Social farms placed in peri-urban areas which run inclusion activity for disabled people, Famer's market with an educational or therapeutic garden and private farmer's factories which rent the land to citizens.

These 5 categories show us that the practice of urban gardening can be as diverse as its gardeners.

The Forum of social farms of the province of Rome

The Province of Rome, specifically the handicap sector, created a provincial Forum of Social Farms in 2006, which adheres to the National one. The Forum of Social Farms is composed of factory farms or social cooperatives which gather together the practice of agriculture and the horticultural therapy with an integration and socio-rehabilitation purpose. They carry out a social service, due to the recognition of these therapies' methods. In Italy a scientific recognition of its benefits is ongoing. The Province of Rome supports and promotes the social agricultural with studies, researches and technical assistance to the adherents' farms.

The italian association for organic farming (AIAB)

The Italian Association for Organic Farming (AIAB) is a non-profit association that was officially established in 1988. It brings together farmers, practitioners, experts, researchers and consumers and is organized in regional chapters (18) coordinated by a Federal Office located in Rome. AIAB promotes organic farming to producers and consumers as a model of rural development and, together with local administrations, supports the development of services to producers and consumers of organic products.

The association founded the FIRAB (Italian Foundation for the Research in Organic Farming) and created the "Garanzia AIAB" label.

AIAB conducts painstaking and intense activity on social agriculture. It has carried out several projects supported by the Ministry of Labour and Justice promoting the employment of prison detainees in the agriculture sector., other projects aimed at promoting the products of organic social farming and they are partner in the European MAIE Project (LLP – Leonardo partnership) that aims to develop a variety of ways of spreading knowledge about social farming by:

- promoting the social farming movement,
- supporting rural areas to work in well-organized networks,
- developing fields of social work in combination with agriculture
- establishing links between movements and activities in Europe.

The urban gardens of Campagna Amica:

The project was born in 2010 in order to promote and support the practice of urban gardening made by citizens. Due to the proliferation of urban gardens in Italy, the Foundation aims to offer its expertise and its network of farmers and nursery to people who wanted to learn and act as sustainable consumers and citizens. Each garden has to respect the values of Campagna Amica that are the support of the local agriculture, sustainable consumption, and respect for the environment and for biodiversity.

CAMPAGNA AMICA created also an educational and demonstrative garden inside a Farmer's Market, placed in the city centre, in order to embellish and enliven the external court of the farmer's market. Its creation is linked to the purpose of making aware the consumers of environmental and healthy food issues. The Market is united to a garden placed in the court as a demonstration that urban gardening can be done everywhere.

Orti urbani Garbatella:

One of the first initiatives of urban gardens in Rome. After 15 years of environmental actions for the right to a greener city and neighbourhood, in 2009 a group of associations and citizens started to cultivate a piece of land just behind the base of Lazio Region.

Today the garden counts on more than 60 individuals and different organisations, finally after 4 years they got the assignation of the land from the Municipality. They organise many activities as social events, Permacultura training, Japanese garden training, and there are some good examples of inclusion activities for disabled people and migrants.

Orti didatticocasale Garibaldi – ass. Lavangaquadra

A group of well organized citizens from the 6th Municipio of Rome, who are searching for a non-contaminated area in order to create an urban garden. The movement was born in 2011 and counts 143 citizens involved today and active in creating a legal area in various ways. Two sites were located for the creation of gardens but after an analysis of the soil they found that it is contaminated. Now they are trying to depurate the land with some plants, but this system takes a long time. They have set up an association and inaugurated the ORTO DIDATTICO CASALE GARIBALDI where every weekend they organise social and theatre events.

They are organised on an horizontal system and the communications are based on a mailing list, website, a facebook page and meeting in a restaurant or social assembly. The organisation of this group can suggest a method of work. They also invented the " widespread nursery", seeds in pots that have been distributed to the group's members and when it's time they will plant those vegetables there.

Orto didattico s.m.s. S. Benedetto

In 2009 in the Medium School S. Benedetto a teacher started a thematic project linked to agro biodiversity. Theoretical activities and practice culminated in a show called "Sounds from the earth" that had a garden integrated. From that time she continued the laboratory and she has integrated the theatre. Urban garden and theatre are the main educational tools of a teacher that runs a garden inside this school all by herself.

Orto solidale S. Caterina

The project was born in 2009 when a parishioner of S. Caterina convinced the Mother Superior of the convent that owns the field to grant it to a group of families for the purpose of gardening projects. The initiative has immediately been thought of as a source of income for La Cometa, a catholic association with solidarity projects, and, at the same time, as an opportunity to provide a service to the parishioners and to foster the relations and initiatives. At the beginning the project involved less than 10 families. After a little time, the requests multiplied and today they have reached saturation point for the garden.

Amici della Terra urban Garden

A garden created 3 years ago by some citizens and one old man that fell in love with the practice of gardening. The garden is in the middle of the city, hidden by the buildings and placed on old railways and vegetables produced from it are given as a present to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. Today it is managed by 2 women and 2 men, one of them has been involved the beginning and they organise paths for blind persons and vegetable dances that help the growing of vegetables.

Even if the garden is not legally recognised they continue to work in it and they are organising educational activities for the school.

Zolle urbane

A group of citizens that practice the "agricivism" philosophy (see after) in Acilia, a suburban area of Rome. They have two areas: one in a shared garden where they organise summer camps and activities for children and disabled people with a synergic garden and also workshops on recycling. The second is a big area which they asked to be assigned 1 year ago, still without result. They work with urban gardens in one of the most characteristic areas of Rome. Until the 1960's Acilia was considered the countryside of Rome, today the building speculation has transformed this area into a suburb of Rome; there are still agricultural areas and farms, and many houses have their private garden but most of the inhabitants go to Rome to work and Acilia remains a quiet neighbourhood.

Fermenti di terra. the Pigneto's urban garden

Pigneto neighbourhood is historically characterised by the mix of the poor and the popular which nowadays has received new young trends open to an artistic and cultural ferment. The urban garden was created on the 8th of October 2011 through an individual initiative. The main aim of the urban garden was to establish a public shared space through a concrete and not mediated action of an informal group that, on a voluntary basis, is in charge of taking care of a little productive area whose fruits are available to all. Another aim has been to favour social cohesion and make the population aware of a more responsible use of the public spaces. Another aim was to spread the culture related to the agriculture, to increase the direct relationship with the land and to promote the production of our own food (mostly among the young generations that otherwise don't have the possibility to come in contact with this reality).

The urban garden includes two big initiatives:

THE OPEN SPACE: Small neighbourhood parties are organised and vegetables are offered to the people.

THE GARDEN IN THE KINDERGARTEN: This practice aims to stimulate the learning of pre-school aged children through educational activities that increase their care for the environment. The laboratory is divided in two parts: There are practical educational activities that stimulate the contact with the natural elements and teach about the relationship between cultivation – production – nutrition.

With the help of children's parents, a garden is realised and managed further on with the children, by experiencing the concrete practice of gardening and concepts like ecological cycle, ecosystem, and metabolism.

Il fiore del deserto

Il Fiore del deserto was born as a residential home for adolescent girls in 2000, in order to answer poverty, marginalization and social exclusion with new practices. Nowadays different activities and projects are carried out in order to train and give boys ang girls living in a situation of social exclusion the opportunity for integration. The urban garden also has a restaurant and other semi-residential structures connected to it for youngsters of different ages and nationalities.

There are organized concerts, and artistic and manual work-shops for youngsters with disabilities or social problems. The structure is located in the Natural Reserve of Marcigliana, just outside the urban borders of Rome. In 2010 the organization created the first Agroclub of Italy, from an idea of the agronomist Franco Paolinelli, aiming to promote social activities linked to environmental problems or social problems and for making green areas available to external people for leisure time.

Terra d'orto

The organization TERRA D'ORTO ONLUS was born in September 2010, following the pedagogy of Don Luigi Guanello, a priest that lived at the end of 1800's beginning of 1900's, who worked for the rehabilitation, the inclusion and the assistance of disabled people.

One of the most important actions was the professional and social integration of disabled people through agricultural activities: the Casa Santa Rosa structure is one of the first initiatives. The association has its headquarter at Casa Santa Rosa base in the Regional Park of Appia Antica and it aims to promote social, training, sports, leisure, jobs and integration activities for disabled people and in general people with physical and social malaise. Therefore the gardening activities are one of the main aims and tools they use for therapeutic purposes (horticultural therapy).

The newest project is the opening of a shared community garden in which families can cultivate the land for their subsistence and aims to open the activities of the organization to a larger public.

Orto in snia

OrtoInSnia is a shared garden, born in the summer of 2011, from the donation of Fritz Hae: a garden that he created on the roof of the American Academy in 2010, during his Roman stay.

The garden is inside the CSOA ExSnia, an ex textile factory that has been occupied by a group of people since 17 years ago. The garden is in a box spreading on the eXSnia ground, draining it from the industrial contaminations through production of a new soil, in time. The space is organised and managed by all those who, joined together by this social project, want to develop our neighbourhood, creating a meeting place where the garden can be cultivated for personal consumption and share our environmental knowledge. The gardeners participate also at the organisation of the social centre. All the participants are volunteers and they comunicate through a mailing list on the free server *autistici.org*. The activities are parallel to those of the Ludofficina (game activities for children)and Ciclofficina (office for fixing bicycles).

Other initiatives have been set up by private organizations, sector's organization(??) or directly factory farms. For example the Italian Confederation of Farmers (CAI) created the network of Social Farms, almost the same of the one of the Province of Rome, but they are organized like a private system. It exists as another way in which factory farms and agricultural cooperatives are starting to be involved in the field of urban gardening. The system is based on a renting contract of their land to citizens who want to have an urban garden.

This private use of agricultural land, as well as the offer of agricultural therapy services, is transforming the primary mission of the agriculture to service instead of production. In a way, it supports and makes the agricultural activity more sustainable, in an economically and sociable way.

The social agriculture

To create a community garden helps combating new forms of alienation that plague modern urban life by contributing to urban quality and by developing sociability and meeting occasions between citizens as well as enhancing solidarity and increasing exchange experiences.

To run a community garden develops self production and self organization models based on the different needs, facilitates human relations by becoming a place for recreational and cultural initiatives. Moreover the knowledge about gardening and its practice in urban context contribute to the reintegration of old people and reduce the gap between the young generation and the old generation.

The practice of urban gardening is a true multifunctional "social laboratory", it responds to the citizens' desire for a greener and sustainable city and to the need of more united social relationships. This is the so called Social Agriculture which has been describe as a new form of social movement that produces relational goods, immaterial ones that increase the social capital of the community. Franco Paolinelli's vision (an agronomist involved in the phenomenon) talks about a demand of rurality expressed by citizens from urban areas.

Rome can be considered a "sprawltown". The urban sprawl is a multifaceted concept, which includes the spreading outwards of a city and its suburbs to its outskirts to low-density and auto-dependent development on rural land, high segregation of uses and various design features that encourage car dependency.

The word calls to mind a host of troublesome issues such as city tight, runaway suburban development, and the conversion of farmland to soulless housing developments. In "Sprawltown", architectural historian Richard Ingersoll makes the surprising claim that sprawl is an inevitable reality of modern life that should be addressed more thoughtfully and recognized as its own new form of urbanism rather than simply being criticized and condemned. He states that we have to re-think the common division between urban areas and countryside, the first inside and the latter outside.

The new conception is to think about countryside inside the urban areas. With the concept of "Agricivism" he supports a new type of policies that provides cultivated land inside the city: to garden and to cultivate means take care, in this way the citizens develop a sense of belonging of the urban areas and the green inside them. "Agricivism" requires active citizenship and this active participation makes more "urban" each area because it creates new social relationships, it can satisfiy local needs and can involve people with fewer opportunities.

The practice of urban gardening is an action of Agricivism, a urban garden is a form of active citizenship where people can share and meet each other, transforming and renewing the anonymous city and developing social relationships.

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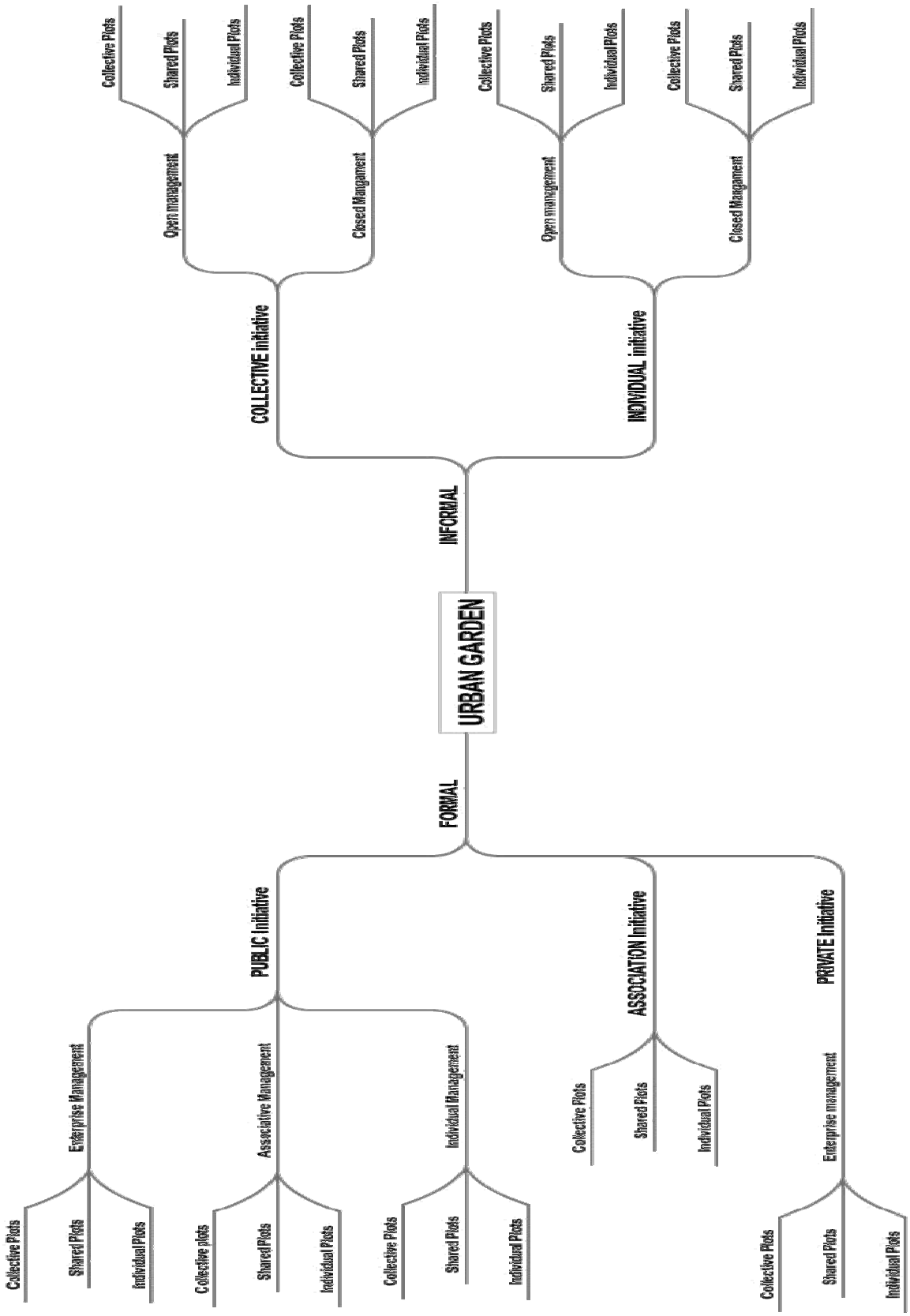
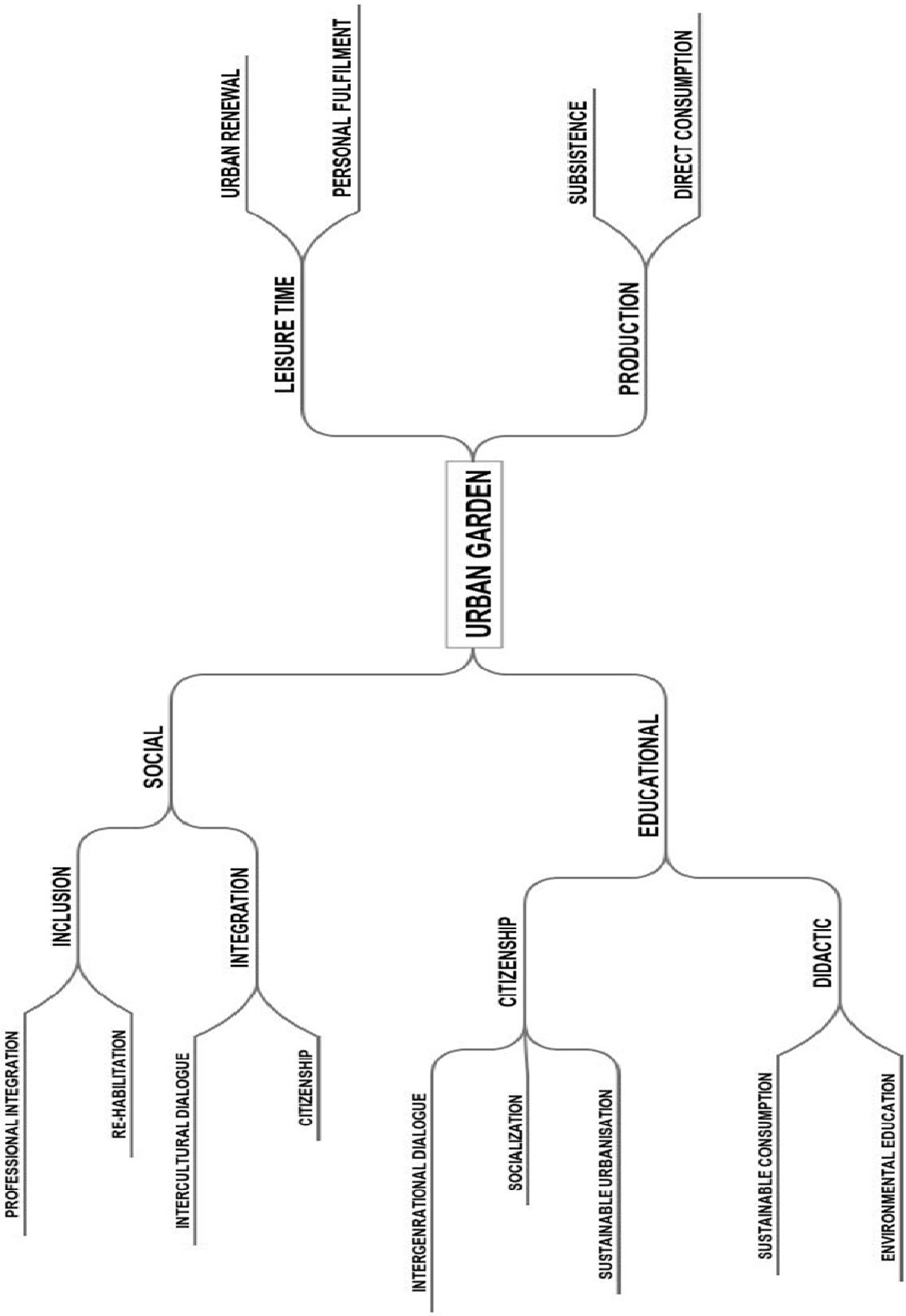
The organisation of a urban garden



The mission of a urban garden



Conclusion and next steps

This state of the art of urban garden in Europe has been redacted in 2012 by each partner.

Even if the information is certainly not exhaustive, it gives a first glimpse of the situation in this field in some countries. The aim is first of all for us, to foster understanding of the different realities before experimenting new methods of adult education through gardening. But we hope this information could also be disseminated to help and motivate other gardens, organisations, networks and people in their own country.

The whole project can be followed in the webpage: www.otesha-gardens.eu where you can find complete information about the concrete actions of the project:

- Garden info sheets: compendium of the participating gardens of the 5 countries. It gives basic information about their garden, how it works, how large it is, how it is organised, etc.
- Good Practices of gardens: compendium of good practices of social work and adult education through urban gardening selected by each local partner.
- Results of the experimentation of good practices: each country and gardens choosed some good practices from another country and experiment them. There will be a special focus on individual learning processes of gardeners and acquired skills.
- Results of the Study-visits: Each partner country will hosted a group of gardeners and show them their network, gardens and teach them about their knowledge, practices and activities.
- Learning Method sheets: Compiling the results of experimentations, mobility, learning processes and exchanges, we will prepare an educative method of learning processes in the field of urban garden. This booklet would be useful for everyone who wants to use the urban garden as a tool to set up activities with adults or work on social and personal development of some special targets (disabled, immigrants, women, unemployed, etc.)
- Dissemination actions: the project also previews dissemination of the method, of the good practices and of the results of the project, but also of some tools per country, good addresses, interesting links, booklet and materials for each country, through a complete webpage and others communication tools.

If you are interested by this project, please contact the partner relating with your country (see contacts page 6 to 11). If it's not represented, you can contact the promoter:

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STATE OF THE ART OF URBAN GARDENS IN EUROPE

In the frame of:

European Urban Garden Otesha

A multilateral Grundtvig project

This booklet gives a first glimpse of the global context of urban gardens in five different European countries. Historical and political context, local situation and existing networks in this field allows us to understand different realities, exchange ideas and good practices.

EUGO

European Urban Garden Otesha

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